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Beyond Walkerton

When Water KILLS



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Who's testing your water: A province-by-province breakdown

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18 When water kills

As residents of Walkerton, Ont., continued to deal with the deadly consequences of their town's contaminated water, critics said the disaster was the result of factory farming—and the dangerous amounts of contaminants such intensive operations may be pouring into the water supply across Canada.



38 Fighting Internet crime

Cpl. Rob Carris is part of an RCMP Emergency Response Team, but it's his regular job that keeps him working 12-hour days: battling the explosion in computer crime.



In life, Maurice Richard always insisted he was just a simple hockey player. When he died, though, Montrealers gave him a hero's send-off.



Dr Robert Stubbs gets inquiries from around the world about an unusual operation he performs: separating damaged partners of women who might have them intact for marriage.



Editor

Power to the people

People: 3 Establishment: 0

That was the score in an extraordinary week of upheaval by big bosses.

First, CBC president Robert Robinson lost a busy season from plans to chop local news. Then, the federal government pulled the plug on its Big Brother database. And finally, Ontario Premier Mike Harris severed himself and agreed to a public inquiry into the E. coli outbreak in Walkerton.

All three decisions were fuelled by grassroots pressure. Robinson faced a firestorm from backbench MPs across Canada's regions and from local CBC employees. Inaugurate editorial staffers in Winnipeg even bought him an airplane ticket so he could come and watch the show for himself. Instead of saying out 14 one-hour suggestive broadcasts, the CBC will now cut them to a half-hour and add 30 minutes of national news. The chastened CBC president confined "to some

extent" to not understanding the importance of the programs in the area where they are successful."

The very same day, embattled Human Resources Minister Jane Stewart moved to defang a database that contained information collected on individuals from across government departments. Privacy commissioner Bruce Phillips, in a worthy sworn song before his retirement, had exposed the insidious extent of the intrusion, denouncing it as a "citizen profile." More than 18,000 angry Canadians demanded to see copies of their files—requests that Ottawa

continues to honour. Stewart had defended the score as a good research tool.

As for Harris, he first blamed the New Democratic government of Bob Rae, defeated in 1995, for the tragic infection of Walkerton residents in the spring of 2000 (page 24). When no one bought that line, Harris capitulated to



Phillips pulling the plug

demands for a formal inquiry. He originally proposed a hearing by a legislative committee controlled by his Conservative party. Harris conceded that as premier, "I am ultimately responsible and accountable." Now, there will be a detailed examination of how the worst outbreak of water-borne bacterial infection in modern Canadian history took place and whether Harris government cutbacks were a factor—all in the very heart of "lovely farm country."

Why did the powers that be respond so quickly? In the past, politicians and corporations waited for the results of private polls before acting (it usually took about two weeks). But Canada has missed the Internet age, the era of 24-hour news. Information and opinion flow freely. People talk on cheap long-distance calls or tap out e-mail. They make up their minds. They act. It's the power of the people. It's beautiful.

Robert Lewis

roblew@newslink.ca or comment on From the Editor



Newsroom Notes

And life goes on

Despite the rising death toll and unrelenting media scrutiny, life in Walkerton, Ont., went on more or less normally last week. Michael Senior, *Wester* John Nicol observed many of the smallest swimmers—baseball under the lights, lawn bowling, chi-rows outside the firehall, and kids in-line skating in arenas left largely empty of traffic as many residents chose to leave town until



(From left, front) Cameron, Hawkes, Kaprielian (back) Kaprielian, Wickens, Nicol, Ferguson, Nicol's son

the water is safe to drink again. Some people excused themselves for swimming, like Jones while others openly described

their own encounters with the E. coli bacteria. "In a sense, they were like survivors of the Titanic," says Nicol. "Happy to have survived, yet subdued by the enormity of the loss around them."

Also contributing to this week's cover stories were Mark Nicholas, Durgale Haveland, Sue Ferguson, Amy Cameron and Cheryl Hawkes in Toronto and Brian Bergman and Andrew Nikiforuk in Calgary. The package was edited by Assistant Managing Editor Peter Kaprielian and Cassilda Editor Barbara Wickens and with cover design by Art Director Nick Burnett.

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The Mail

Working life

Loyalty? What's that? Isn't it obvious that business has no one to blame but themselves for this lack of loyalty they are now experiencing with their employees ("What the boss needs to know," *Cover*, May 29)? After all, how much loyalty did they show to their employees during the past 10 years of cuts, cuts, cuts? The shoe is now on the other foot. Unfortunately, everyone is looking out for themselves, more so the CEOs and corporate rulers of the business world. Do they show any of this "loyalty" when accepting new positions with higher and higher salaries, making them into the atmosphere of million-dollar wages? No, they don't. They move around to the best opportunities that suit them. Now, their employees are just doing the same. So what's the beef? We were all told to accept change, and now it's here. What goes around comes around. Looks like the pendulum is swinging back to the workers' side of things, which bodes well for them and their families.

Bill Calhoun, Cambridge, Ont.

Thank you for acknowledging that happy workers who feel valued by their employers are workers who perform a



better job. Ontario's Premier Mike Harris and Education Minister Janet Ecker should read your article. The province's teachers have been abused, trashed and demoralized for several years by employers who have forgotten what a noble profession teaching used to be and how loyal teachers are to their students. Soon we will all be punching clocks and carrying papers so that our principals can access us 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Even the smallest acknowledgement of our value is appreciated, and I applaud your coverage of average folks doing good jobs.

Wesley Fish, high-school English teacher, Carleton Place, Ont.

What message is *Maclean's* sending to its audience when its cover images portray men and women in stereotypical careers? Surely, you could have found enough women to pose for the photos who have assumed the roles of consultant, medical doctor, construction worker, businessperson, athlete, firefighter, chef, photographer and musician. Additionally, you could have found numerous men who are employed in non-traditional jobs, all of which would be proud to display their unwillingness to be stereotyped with employment orthodoxy.

Norahne Kadiji, London, Ont.

Maritime history

Thank you for your article on the *Empress of Ireland* ("Lost in the river depths," *Canada History*, May 29). As a former sea cadet, I was happy to see an article on an important piece of Cana-

Fond memory

I read your article "Gentleman Jean Belliveau" with fond remembrance (Anthony Wilson-Smith, May 29). Over the 60 years of my life, I have asked only one person for his autograph. While having breakfast at a Toronto hotel in 1984, I could hardly believe my eyes when I noticed Jean Belliveau a couple of tables away. He was with another gentleman as I hesitated before deciding to interrupt and ask for his autograph. I'm sure my voice was tentative, but I remember clearly how he looked directly at me and said: "My friend, that would be my pleasure. This may be the easiest thing I have to do today."

Rob Wilks, Kingston, Ont.

dian heritage. One thing the picture is the *Empress of Britain*, the *Empress of Ireland's* sister ship. In David Zerk's book *Forgotten Empires—The Empress of Ireland Story*, he writes that this photo is often mistaken for the *Empress of Ireland*, and that the name was reached on the original photos.

Michelle Robinson, Calgary

Critiquing Tom Long

Let's get one thing straight. The so-called anti-Quebec Reform party ads of the 1997 federal election did not "lose the party crucial support in Central Canada," as you allege in "Cutting it in the West," (*Canada*, May 29). This myth persists in Liberal and Conservative backrooms as they continue to shore up the shaky self-deception that they alone know how to run the country. In the 1999 book *Unusually Smart: The 1997 Canadian Federal Election*, Neil Neilson and his colleagues showed that the ads gave Reform a short-lived bounce in popularity that would have had little effect if only the party had had the funds to continue running them through voting day. The message of the ads was that Canadian unity should not be an issue left only to Quebec politicians, and Ontario voters had no problem seeing the logic of at least that part of the Reform platform. It was



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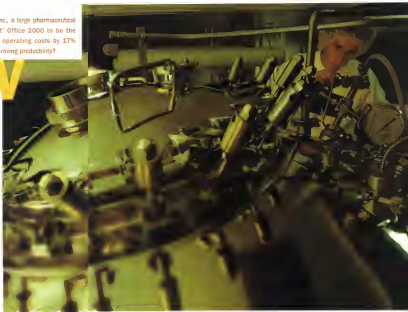
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Overture

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Edited by Anthony Wilson-Smith
with Sherrida Dorval

Over and Under

Bad news, Bob

Next on CBC local news: network head straggled? Later on The National: Jane Stewart unphugged?

◆ **Jane Stewart:** Her Oldhrunk: nothing wrong with human resources department having extensive files on most of us. Newhrunk just because Canadians are paranoid about HRHC: doesn't mean they're wrong—like us, we're screwed.

◆ **CBC prez Bob Rabinovitch:** His Oldhrunk: nobody watches 5 p.m. regional news, so kill it. His Newhrunk: nobody watches except Liberal MPs and members of CBC board. It stays.

◆ **CBC chairman Gayle Sacher:** When she talks about power of her board, she really means a two-by-four.

◆ **News of seven Guy Bleck:** New study suggesting blond kids born with a lesion may trigger farther speculation: e.g., which way, Nancy Drew?—haven't a clue. And Rene and Ben—does one wear a shirt?

◆ **"Rocket" Richard:** A nation turns its loving eyes to you. For all those years and memories, never under five.



Stewart, Rabinovitch



Media Watch

Paper capers

With more than 20,000 employees and a multi-billion-dollar operation, the New Brunswick-based Irving family empire dwarfs competitors. But it doesn't ignore their witness the way the Irving-owned Fredericton Daily Gleaner has taken on Woodstock, N.B.-based Henley Publishing Ltd.—which has 60 employees when part-timers are included.

David Henley, who owns four weeklies in New Brunswick, launched

Newbride News 20 months ago as a free tabloid serving north-end Fredericton. At first, the Gleaner ignored the upstart—but Henley says that changed when the News, which has 10,000 readers per week, started to cut into its advertising base. He says the Gleaner sells ads below cost—sometimes for as little as \$400 per full page, or half the price of an ad in the News. He also maintains the ad war has extended into the daily's news pages. In January, it ran a story about his daughter, Susan, and her post-divorce financial problems under the headline: "Henley owes lawyers \$18,000." "They want to put the paper under," Henley says, adding, "We're darn close to it now." Gleaner publisher Victor Mladicki says that's nonsense: "I don't run my business in relation to him. He is really a small player." And, in fairness, an annoying one.

John DeMoss

Don't sign here, please

Had news for smart surfers who use their Amazon Express card to access adult Web sites, the company will no longer allow Amex cards to be used as payment. A spokesman cites "the unusually high incidence of disputes about transactions." Turn-

lated, husbands risk up big bills, five-plex innocent when wife uses the bill statement. Although merchants must cover disputed charges, Amex is kind of parent's strained administration. Its membership has its privileges—but divorcing your partner is no longer one of them.

World University Games, it took two years before the was closed. Now, the IOC exercises more caution. Of eight competitors who tested positive at the Atlanta Summer Games in 1996, all were permitted to compete after further investigation. Girls will be girls, after all.

Sue Ferguson

Over and Out

Madam—not Adam

For the first time in three decades, women athletes at the Sydney Summer Olympic Games won't undergo one of their most controversial rituals: the International Olympic Committee has sus-

pended "gender-verification" testing on a trial basis. Authorities never intended a man competing as a woman—but women were often misdiagnosed because of androgen insensitivity syndrome, a chromosomal abnormality in which girls are born without female internal organs. In 1985, Spanish hurdler Maria Pano tested positive and was ousted from the



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Baseball: who cares?

Lots of Americans consider this a good year to watch baseball—but Toronto and Montreal fans seem much less convinced. Major-league baseball announced last week that for the first time ever, it surpassed 20 million fans before the U.S. Memorial Day holiday—up nearly six per cent over 1999. But the Blue Jays and Expos—who face each other this week in Toronto—dug down that record. Receipts for the Jays' home games through May 30 are 26-per-cent lower than last year's; the team drew an average 18,639 fans, down from 25,220 in 1999. The Expos are up 42 per cent—but that's not saying much. The team averaged less than 10,800 fans in 1999, this season average, 13,259, is far below the major-league average of 28,039.

That may be why New York's *Knicks* Forbes magazine recently ranked



Jays' Carlos Delgado: why no fans?

Montreal as the least valuable franchise (\$133 million), that's almost six times less than that of the top team, the New York Yankees (\$829 million). The Jays rank 23rd of 30 teams (\$242.5 million).

Michael Seider

Overbites: Maurice Richard recalled

"Whenever he scored a goal, the cheer at the Forum was just a decibel higher than when anybody else scored."

—Lifetime broadcaster Dick Irvin Jr., whose father coached the Rocket

"My job was to get the Rocket the puck. His job was to get it in the net."

—Former teammate Elmer Lach

"We didn't like him because he beat us, but we all respected him. The Rocket would live it, right to the end."

—Gordie Howe

"Happy fishing, Maurice"

—Jean-Claude Cardinal Tardieu, archbishop of Montreal, bids his old friend farewell

Overheard

Spirituality for sale

Call it *spirituality.com*. Silicon Valley-based computer magazine magazine Chris Anderson, CEO of living media Inc. and chairman of Future Network PLC, has purchased the most expensive home in Whistler, B.C., for \$7.9 million. The house is called Alaska, which is Sarakini for a place that holds the records of knowledge past and present. It is surrounded by mountains, decorated with totem



Alaska: seventy-nine is \$7.9 million

poles and encased in bams, a healing space. In the centre of the house stands a 428-year-old cedar tree filled in the Queen Charlotte Islands. Other highlights: a chandelier made of 24 elk

'Gerda's garden'

The first idea was a modest rose bed celebrating Canada's 125th anniversary at the entrance of Rideau Hall, home of Canada's governor general. Today, a full-blown garden movement to Canada's history cuts a wide swath across the 19th-century English landscape of the Rideau Hall grounds.

The Canadian Heritage Garden, which opens this week, owes its existence to the determination of former governor general Roman Herzog's wife, Gerda. When Jean Chretien gave permission to



See the garden grow, despite objections

create the garden, he added there would be no government funds for it. She had to raise the money before proceeding.

Five years later, she's done it—at a cost of about \$2.1 million and much ruffling of federal bureaucratic feathers—especially at the National Capital Commission, which manages the grounds. Her backers are an eclectic mix—including corporate giants such as Bell Canada, TD Bank and RBC, and Benson & Hedges. Their names are chiseled so discreetly onto the garden structures as to be almost illegible.

Arac.

orders (collected by boy scouts and assembled by a local artist), heated floors and an indoor pool with a 22-karat gold and glass mosaic border.

Designers Andrew and Bonnie Munster began building the home three years ago, before they had a buyer. They insist there is a market for extraordinary homes that are also pet-friendly and furnished. "In Whistler if you want anything special, you have to build it yourself," says Bonnie Munster. "I think a lot of people at that level just don't have the time." But they do, in Anderson's case, have the cash

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Overture

PASSAGES

Appointed: Longtime Edmonton Oilers executive Glen Sather, 56, is now president and general manager of the New York Rangers. Sather coached the Wayne Gretzky-era Oilers dynasty that won the Stanley Cup five times. More recently he kept the small-market team competitive despite soaring player salaries. Now, he faces daunting pressure to make an immediate contender of a team for which he played from 1971 to 1975. Despite the highest payroll in hockey, the Rangers failed to make the playoffs the past three years.



Retiring: Philip Murry will step down as Canada's top cop in September. Now 57, Murry joined the RCMP 38 years ago and spent his first 15 years on general policing in Saskatchewan. Posted to Ottawa in 1977, he rose through the ranks at headquarters and was named commissioner in 1994.

Deck: Latin-jazz bandleader and pianist Tito Puente, 77, recorded more than 100 albums in his 60-year career. This past February, Puente won a Grammy for his album *Mambo Brothers!*. He died in a New York City hospital of heart problems.

Died: Bill Gold, 63, began his career as a 540-a-week reporter at *The Ottawa Journal* at age 16. He went on to become one of Canada's most distinguished journalists, and served as editor of the *Calgary Herald* from 1976 to 1982. A two-time winner of National Newspaper Awards, he also worked as a foreign correspondent. He died in Calgary of cancer.

Died: Chicago-born John Christopher Doyle, 85, a flamboyant onetime intimate of former premier Joey Smallwood, fled Canada in 1975 to avoid more than 400 charges of fraud and breach of trust in Newfoundland. As founder and chair-

man of Canadian Jewell Ltd., he acquired millions of dollars in government loans and enormous mining and lumber concessions. But, in 1973, the Crown alleged that he had defrauded Jewell of \$10 million. Released on bail, Doyle fled to Panama, where he became a citizen. In recent years, he lived in a 20th-floor penthouse overlooking the Pacific Ocean. He died at home of leukemia.

Died: Child psychiatrist Paul Steinhausen, 67, was roundly applauded by academics and social organizations. Over the years, the Toronto native fought to bring attention to the nation's disturbed children—who he believed were undervalued by society. He initiated programs for children's aid and taught child-welfare workers how to better serve troubled teens. The father of four daughters, Steinhausen died from complications arising from cancer surgery.

Resuscitating: Entrepreneur Bob Hope received emergency medical treatment for an intestinal problem four days after his 97th birthday. The Palm Springs, Calif., doctor who treated Hope described him as being in good shape for his age.

Died: Author M. S. Shubert committed suicide by jumping off a viaduct in Toronto. In the 1970s, Shubert wrote award-winning mysteries and a thriller under the pseudonym A. M. Kabal. He was also co-host of TVOntario show *Supernatural*. At the time of his death, the 45-year-old Indian-born, Oxford-educated scholar was working on a new book. Friends said he was prone to depression.

Contract renewed: Former director James Kudrka, 45, has agreed to stay on as artistic director of the Toronto-based National Ballet of Canada for three more years. In 1998, Kudrka did not renew the contract of one of his principal dancers, Kimberly Glasco. The 33-year-old ballerina then filed a wrongful dismissal suit that is still being fought in court. An arbitrator recently directed Kudrka to reinstate Glasco, but he has refused to work with her—the ballet is appealing the arbitrator's decision.

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Anthony Wilson-Smith

In politics, races never end

During the only period in his adult life when he wasn't an elected politician, Jean Chrétien attended a party in Montreal in early 1986 to mark the publication of the previous fall of his memoirs, *Struggle from the Heart*. By then, he had assembly quar politics, established a lucrative law practice, and simultaneously succeeded in remaining one of the country's most recognized, beloved public figures. It should have been golden times—but this night, it became clear it wasn't. Chatting to a small group of acquaintances, Chrétien talked about how he would be awake at night, reliving the last 1984 leadership race against John Turner. If only, he said, Pierre Trudeau had made him caucus leader when he stood; he could have gone to England, over the Queen, delayed an election, pumped up the Liberals' popularity—and his own. If only, if only, he continued, his voice finally trailing off.

Chrétien, like other runners-up before and since, had discovered an essential truth of politics: leadership races may end for everyone else, but for the participants, they never really go away. On the night of his defeat by Turner, Chrétien's people held a consolation party at a Delta hotel in Ottawa. When guests arrived, Eddie Goldenberg, Chrétien's adviser and alter ego, greeted them by saying, "Welcome to the first meeting of the 694 club." That was the number of votes by which Chrétien had lost to Turner—and that he would therefore need to add to his total the next time out. In a short, it reflected the belief that the loss marked a beginning, not an end, for the chosen one's leadership hopes.

There are exceptions for the Canadian Alliance (note: Reform) in power near the end of its first-ever leadership race. The winner should remember that an ambitious loser almost always runs again. Turner ran in 1984 after his 1968 loss to Trudeau. Brian Mulroney talked for a couple of years after losing to Joe Clark in 1976, but eventually remarried his entire life in anticipation of his successful second run in 1983. Clark waited 15 years for another chance. Chrétien scratched his itch by succeeding Turner in 1990. Now, ask any Chrétien to restate their feelings about the ambitions of Paul Martin, runner-up in the 1995 Liberal race.

As for the Alliance, there's a strong chance that after all the protest runs, they'll simply stick with Preston Manning. If so, that's great news for Chrétien, who already whipped his great bias: that the Alliance choose Sackville Day—or, less likely, Tom Long—everything changes, for a couple of reasons. Start with the principle that an independent leader effectively disarms policy to the party's own vice versa. The shift in positions can be dramatic. The Liberals under Trudeau were anti-business, protectionist, anti-special areas for Quebec and pro-Big Government. Under Turner, they made

pro-business noises but opposed free trade and actively supported the Meech Lake accord. Under Chrétien, they make anti-business noises but are vehemently pro-free trade, and they helped spike the Meech accord.

A Defeat Alliance wouldn't change the policies of its party as much as all that. But he would give it an entirely different emphasis, focusing more on social issues, than it now has—even though his and Manning's personal value systems aren't much different. That would affect the Liberal's plans because successful political parties usually decide policy priorities with at least one eye on what their principal competitors are doing.

For now, with an election on the horizon that fall or next spring, the Libs have decided that the safest way to build their own majority is to regain seats lost in 1997 in the Atlantic provinces—so they've tucked back to the left. If Manning wins, that vision prevails. A fall election would become more likely, because the PM is confident he can beat Manning without Martin—and sooner rather than later. A Day win, on the other hand, would force the Libs to think about what to stress in an election campaign, and when to hold it—particularly if the gap the usual media honeymoon. In that event, they'd likely wait until next spring, and dress up a platform that would be less heavy on new spending, but more liberal on social issues, to try to shake him out on his perceived weak point with voters. And a new internal debate would begin on whether the PM should stay or go.

Couple that with Martin's own timetable. If the PM seems sure to run again, many Martin associates agree there's little to gain in their gap staying in the portfolios—or government—much longer. Held too long, it's like to play host to a scheduled Montreal meeting of G-20 finance ministers this fall. On the other hand, professional courtesy would dictate that if he wants out before a new budget next February, he should allow more time than that for his successor to settle in. A post-budget election would allow him to keep his options open.

In the end, it's like those horrible math classes you take in Grade 10 or so each time you introduce a new variable, the whole equation changes. The PM these days is so lucky that he has become much more indifferent to including his finance ministers to listen beyond his usual small circle of advisers. You'd have to go back to the late 1980s to find the last time such a disastrous relationship existed between a Liberal leader and his heir apparent. Chrétien knows life on both sides of the street. If only, if only, leadership races didn't so often produce such a furious long-term result. Don't bet the Alliance outcome will be that much different.

WHEN WATER KILLS

By Andrew Nikiforuk

Long after the dead have been buried in Walkerton, Ont., rural Canadians who rely on groundwater will continue to feel and smell the impact of a largely unregulated revolution: the growth of factory farms. This new industry, or what governments call "intensive livestock operations," has wrestled farm communities from New Brunswick to Alberta. Unlike the family enterprises of old, which proudly cared for 20 pigs or 60 cattle, these new facilities operate on an entirely different and largely unregulated scale.

The dangerous consequences of factory farming are being felt all across the country

Let's begin with the industrialization of Alberta's famed beef herds. Thirty years ago, thousands of farmers throughout the province regarded the care of 100 cattle as a big deal. Today, 50 beef herds, largely concentrated north of Lethbridge in an area known as Feedlot Alley, fatten and manage 80 per cent of the province's slaughtered beef. As a result, just one feedlot will have as many as 25,000 cattle in a mass of outdoor corrals on a piece of land the size of a city block. At Cox Van Ryn, Alberta's undisputed feedlot king, puts it, "Everyone flies to



One of Walkerton's water towers, questionable about the health of the town's livestock operation past

thousands of them white-suited Swiss technicians) managed an average of 418 animals each in crowded high-tech barns, while just one per cent of Ontario's hog factories accounted for nearly a quarter of the 5.6 million hogs produced in the province. And big just keeps getting bigger. An Asian firm, the Taiwan Sugar Co., for example, proposes to build an 80,000-hog operation outside Lethbridge. Local citizens are concerned about the amount of untreated waste it will create—equivalent to that produced by 240,000 people. They are also concerned that, like most of Alberta's intensive livestock operations, it will be regulated and taxed like a family farm.

The monstrous scale of these profitable operations has raised troubling questions about water quality and threats to public health: from coast to coast. Manure from factory farms often contains a variety of heavy metals, lake-choking nutrients and deadly pathogens

think they can get their chicken or beef on a cory farm somewhere. But unless you get big and run it like a business you are squeezed out. This whole corporate thing is just snowballing."

Factory farming has also radicalized the country's multi-billion-dollar hog industry in Ontario, Quebec and the West. One of the fastest-growing in the world, Canada's hog sector employs 100,000 people and exports more than a third of its production to 35 countries. In 1976, 18,622 Ontario farms raised an average of 383 pigs each. By 1996, 6,777

such as E. coli 0157. In fact, whenever factory farms have concentrated industrial piles of manure in small spaces, big trouble has followed. No one knows this better than Dr. Paul Henselback, the medical officer of health for Alberta's Chokebush Health Region, home to Feedlot Alley and the nation's largest concentration of livestock—and a region plagued by chronic health and water problems. "Walkerton has demonstrated to the public that there is a substantial risk out there," he notes. "There just isn't a framework to develop these industries in a sustainable fashion."

The market forces now creating animal factories across Canada are simple. They include a federal commitment to support low food prices and new economic realities. For instance, it is far cheaper to export pork and pork ribs to ship grain or corn. Thanks to abundant feed grains, Western Canada can now produce hogs more profitably than any other region in the world. In addition, the world's key pork producers, Taiwan and Holland, actively pushed production into the danger zone, causing severe water pollution and animal disease outbreaks. But their environmental disasters have had an effect here: hog barns managed by Europeans or funded by Asian investors are popping up all over the country.

Such factories, however, have generated intense opposition in rural Canada. Lining next to one can be unpleasant: in addition to the stretch of manure, neighbours routinely complain about increased traffic, flies, dust and noise. Most Canadian provinces now have some kind of condition banning beef feedlots or hog barns—and the resource ministry generally focuses on fears about water pollution. And for good reason. The growth of animal factories—fueled by provincial incentives such as subsidies in Quebec and the Prairie provinces—has created industrial-scale waste problems. A single 500-sow farm producing 20 piglets per sow a year creates as much effluent as a town of 75,000 people without a waste treatment system.

Hog waste, which contains a host of heavy metals because of mineral-rich feed, simply goes to open-air lagoons before it is sprayed on the land. Beef factories aren't much better. A 25,000-head feedlot produces an excess of 50,000 tonnes of dung—or more local manure than 250,000 Canadians excrete over a year. It, too, is just spread on land bases often too small to absorb all the nutrients. Alberta's livestock industry may hold a national measure (total dung being equivalent to the waste of 48 million Canadians). Very little of this dung is properly treated, regulated or monitored. In Alberta, to the dismay of public health officials like Henselback, last month the provincial government unconcernedly shelved proposed legislation to crack down on and monitor intensive livestock operations. In many provinces, government downsizing has also focused the responsibility for regulating these facilities on those least equipped to do the job: municipal governments.

In Quebec, where, according to government statistics, probably a third of all hog operations don't comply with provincial environmental standards, a coalition of 18 firms and environmental organizations even took their case to NAFTA's Commission for Environmental Co-



In *Widewater, Rose McGowan battles her one-year-old son, Shamus, given*

Experts fear Canada's cavalier attitude towards water will prove calamitous



operation. The governments of Mexico and Canada, however, avoid any investigation allegations that Ottawa and Quebec weren't protecting watersheds from outside runoff. Ontario is also in bad shape. Dr. Murray McQuigge, the outspoken public health officer who blew the whistle on the Walkerton outbreak, warned last September that "poor nutrient management on farms is leading to the degradation of the quality of groundwater, streams and lakes." Ontario has no specific legislation governing factory farms.

Let Klapanak, who runs a Calgary firm specializing in water treatment, says there isn't a single government in Canada with adequate legislation to deal with these volumes of animal waste. "The leakage from lagoons is incredible, and when you spread millions of gallons of waste on a field it just runs into the surface water," he says. "If a city or an oil company operated this way, they would be shut down."

All this means has already taken a costly toll on watersheds in Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Alberta. A 1998 federal study found half of 27 Alberta streams in key agricultural production zones exceeded water guidelines for nitrates, phosphorus and disease-carrying bacteria. According to a

1998 study, about 30 per cent of rural wells in Ontario were contaminated with pathogens. In the United States, the Environmental Protection Agency estimates that agricultural runoff from animal factories and traditional farms is the leading source of water pollution in that country.

David Schindler, one of the world's leading experts on water and an ecologist at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, believes Canada is no different. He thinks the nation's notoriously cavalier attitude towards water quality will prove calamitous. In a scientific paper to be published this fall, he predicts that pollution from agriculture and other sources, as well as habitat destruction, will end all freshwater fishing within 50 years, while the nation's drinking water supply will be in dire straits within a century. "Whenever you don't pay attention to factory farms and their waste, you end up paying for it in spikes in health services and waste-water treatment," Schindler says. "Coastal after country has gone down, that path. Why aren't we learning from other people's mistakes?"

It's health being compromised. In a study published last year, Health Canada rapped cattle densities and the incidence of *Escherichia coli* 0157 infections in rural Ontario, only to dis-

cover that its rural Ontario counties with the highest number of cattle—and Walkerton is located inside that in the middle of them—routinely reported the highest rates of *E. coli* 0157 infection between 1990 and 1995. Pascal Michel, the Health Canada veterinarian and epidemiologist who led the *E. coli* 0157 study, says he was surprised by the scale of the Walkerton tragedy—but not by its location. "We knew we could expect many cases of infection in these counties that anywhere else in the province," he said.

Alberta's Foodley Alloy, which produces untreated water from 1.3 million acres that is the average equivalent for a population of eight million people, has also been plagued by Walkerton-like troubles. Conscience good faith health problems there as the result of animal waste does not exist. But residents routinely run to the bathroom with the highest rates of intestinal dis-

orders that the methane, ammonia and hydrogen sulfide spewing from a 4,000-hog operation caused respiratory illness in people living up two kilometres away.

In the United States, where factory farms have polluted parts of the eastern seaboard and poisoned scores of Canadians, state and federal governments have gotten tough. Kansas and Nebraska, for example, have banned large animal factories and Iowa has declared a moratorium on future developments. The EPA has also targeted factory farms for top priority inspections. Canada, however, hasn't followed suit. With the exception of a pending national program for uniform standards for hog operations, and funding on manure research, Ottawa is largely absent from the debate over factory farms. Not to say provinces picking up the slack.

Critics agree that are some obvious reforms. Provincial governments should ap-



From left to right, Robert Brink, Lenore A. Mol, David, Edith Pearson, Nina Cox victims of a devastating fire that took the lives of a mother and her four children.

cover in the province. In one three-year period between 1989 and 1991, *E. coli* 0157 killed a dozen children and affected scores more in southern Alberta's cattle country. In recent years, the Chinoak Health Region has repeatedly raised pointed questions about the bacterial contamination of drinking water, the fouling of irrigation canals, dogged waste treatment plants and residues in the groundwater.

The public health costs of hog factories are equally daunting. A U.S. survey published this spring found that people living downwind from hog farms in North Carolina—where such factories first originated—experienced more headaches, runny noses, sore throats, excessive coughing, diarrhea and burning eyes than residents of a community without hog factories. None of this is surprising according to other U.S. studies. 75 per cent of all workers employed by hog farms suffer from bronchitis due to the corrosive nature of hog waste. A 1997 Iowa study

found that the methane, ammonia and hydrogen sulfide spewing from a 4,000-hog operation caused respiratory illness in people living up two kilometres away.

Most producers support higher standards for the deeper reason that disposes like Walkerton aren't good for business. Lost but not lost, Schindler, Canada's top water scientist, would also like to see federal funding for freshwater research around (it is now, he says, at an all-time low) and comprehensive management plans for the nation's watersheds. "Walkerton," Schindler concludes, "should be a wake-up call for the entire nation."

Andrea Nijlschik is a Calgary-based journalist who has written extensively about factory farms.

Coming up roses in Saskatchewan

Like many towns in semi-arid regions of the Prairies, Rosetown, Sask., has struggled with bad water. It was generally safe to drink, but was unpleasant and caused serious damage in residents' homes. The water in the small farming community of 2,500 about 120 km southwest of Saskatoon was high in iron and manganese. Laundry bleach would make these minerals, staining clothes with brown and black spots. As well, certain combinations of salt in the water made it acidic, and that so-called aggressive water ate away at taps, valves and other plumbing. Rosetown's water was also high in sulphates, which inspired a concrete-salt—and could eat at a house. "If you were to have a cup of coffee and you wanted to use it," says Alan Herrick, the assistant operator at Rosetown's water treatment plant, "you'd have to find a bathroom about a half-hour later."

But since 1993, the water has been noticeably more palatable. That was the year the town approved its 1994 water treatment plant, and installed a state-of-the-art filtration system. The high-tech facility is one of only two in Canada—Melville, Sask., has the other—that uses electrocoagulation reversal, or EDR. The procedure predigests the water, down from two 82-m-deep wells sunk into the Eagle Creek bed, to remove much of the iron and manganese. The water is then pumped through a semi-permeable membrane through which an electrical current flows to draw out dissolved salts. In all, the plant removes about 60 per cent of unwanted minerals and salts.

It has not been cheap. EDR added an extra \$900,000 to the \$3.9-million cost of replacing Rosetown's water treatment plant. As a result, residents' first monthly water rate shot up to \$29 from \$14, a jump that initially did not sit well with everyone. "Anyone you double the price of something, people get upset," acknowledges Gary Crowder, the town administrator. But he adds, "now they're just happy to have the water."

Danyla Havelkova

Tonnes of trouble

They call it Foodley Alloy, a 50-by-10-km swath of land north of the city of Lethbridge, Alta. It is a home to more than 900,000 cattle and hogs—the densest concentration of livestock anywhere in Canada. For years, some area residents and environmentalists have raised concerns about the potential risks to soil and water quality—and to human health—of cramming so many animals into such a small space. In the wake of the fatal *E. coli* outbreak in Ontario's Bruce County, another area of intense livestock production, those warnings have grown louder. "We need to be proactive and precautionary, rather than reacting a tragedy like we saw in Walkerton," says Cheryl Bradley, a Lethbridge resident and spokeswoman for the

Southern Alberta Livestockers' Group. Dr. Paul Hasebalk, medical officer of health for the Chinoak Health Region, which includes Foodley Alloy, agrees. Walkerton should be a wake-up call. "Over the last five years, he says, the Chinoak region has averaged 29 times the Canadian rate for *E. coli* infection. Overall, it has also reported some of the highest rates of gastrointestinal illnesses in Alberta. But Hasebalk adds that ongoing and onerous study of the Oldman River basin—the chief water source for the region—has led to filled to conclusively link contamination to the intensive livestock industry. "The data that we're looking at is still suggestive of a relationship," he says, "but the extent of that hasn't been clearly defined." In fact, initial surveys in 1998 indicated a more obvious culprit: the average nitrate

plant. The facility has been upgraded.

While environmentalists welcome such efforts, they say much more needs to be done. Bradley points out that what few provincial guidelines exist are under the auspices of Alberta Agriculture. She fears that "not placing the fax in the chicken coop," since the same department also promotes the livestock industry. Bradley would like to see the so-called factory farms regulated under Alberta's Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act. "We need to be amazed," she says, "that we can drink our water without putting our health at risk." On that score, the gen. no argument from the region's medical officer, Walkerton's health officials agree. Residents "have worst nightmares." He is far from alone.

Brian Bergman in Calgary

A MATTER OF TRUST

Water is governed by a patchwork of regulations

By Danylo Howsiewich

Fear has been good for Jack McAllister's business. For 12 years, his company, The Water Boys, has delivered spring and drilled water to Huron lake residents. Living in Steel Town, his customers have long been suspicious of the tap water the heavily industrialized city draws from Lake Ontario. But the E. coli poisoning in Walkerton, Ont., gave added weight to their concerns, doubling sales last week. "It's really scared people," McAllister says. "When you eat, drink, think the end of the road."

Canadians across the country are asking whether their water is safe—and wondering who is protecting them and how. Many question the wisdom of having huge factory farms in their communities. And some, like environmental lawyer Elizabeth May, executive director of the Sierra Club, want to know why Ontario does not set binding regulations for water quality. At the moment, Ontario's involvement is limited; it is part of the federal-provincial subcommittee on drinking water, which regularly updates guidelines for water safety. But those guidelines are not legally enforceable, and critics say Ontario has failed to take responsibility, leaving control over water with the provinces whose budget cuts and downgrading to municipalities have led to a troubling lack of uniformity in monitoring, enforcement and public disclosure. "Kids shouldn't have to die," says May, "before governments pay attention to how much they have cut back on the environment."

Others are less critical of Ontario. Seth Miller, co-editorial for the Toronto-based Canadian Environmental Law Association, believes the government of Ontario is to blame for Walkerton. Instead of its current hedgehogging of provincial statutes addressing water quality to varying degrees, Miller says the

province should adopt—and administer—a safe-drinking-water act with legally binding regulations. "We need it all to be pulled together in one place," says Miller. "We need the legal authorities to be very close."

There are stark contrasts in how provinces and territories go about trying to keep their water safe. Spring floods in the Yukon usually result in quick action, but water warnings issued without waiting for test results from wells. Most governments, however, wait for test results before issuing boil-water advisories. Quebec issues an average of 600 a year, by far the most in the country. Other provinces generally issue far fewer directives. In 1999, Alberta was typical, issuing only two orders. Quebec says its higher numbers are due to the province taking more precautions than the others. It is, however, difficult to compare results because there is no single common

The federal-provincial guidelines for Canadian drinking water quality set out basic standards for water testing frequency and minimum contaminant levels. Each province and territory brings its water-safety policy on these guidelines, but only Alberta and Quebec have legislative monitoring specific standards to be followed. There is no set procedure for sharing test results between different levels of government and the public. Most provinces receive results directly from the lab. Governments in Quebec and Ontario, however, rely on municipalities to inform them of positive test results. The guidelines suggest the following schedule for sampling:

POPULATION	SAMPLES PER MONTH
up to 5,000	4
5,000 to 9,999	1 per 1,000 population
more than 9,999	1 per 10,000 population and an additional 30



Volunteers stock flats of bottled water at a depot in Walkerton, Ont.

farther than deuced officials' commitment to protecting water. Last month, federal Environment Minister David Anderson refused to back a NAFTA commission inquiry into large-scale pork operations in Quebec and the waste they produce—and effectively quashed it. Provincial politicians, meanwhile, have taken a go-slow approach on regulating factory farming. Alberta Agriculture Minister Ry Land last month backed away from an advisory committee report that recommended tougher rules for the province's hog, cattle and poultry operations. Land said he does not favour "heavy-handed regulation" and instead

prefers voluntary measures, such as a "self-assessment" program in which farmers would be encouraged to identify and fix problems. And in Ontario last week, Agriculture Minister Ernie Hardeman defended his recent decision to oppose attempts by municipalities to prevent factory farms from spreading manure on fields. Hardeman, claiming there is a danger of overregulation hurting business, said he is awaiting a report on the cost-benefit by MPPs investigating large-scale farming before addressing how the industry should be monitored and policed.

The last federal budget, however, may promise some hope for cleaner water. It committed provinces for \$2.6 billion in funding for municipal infrastructure over the next six years. About \$2 billion is earmarked for "green" infrastructure, some of it water treatment and waste-water treatment. But the provinces, territories and the Treasury Board in Ottawa must still negotiate the details—while the provinces and municipalities will have to put in matching funds. And it is up to the provinces, says Michelle Giddings, a Health Canada official who sits on the federal-provincial subcommittee, to ensure watersheds are kept safe from increasingly intense livestock farming, as well as the use of more insecticides and herbicides. Despite Walkerton, though, Giddings feels "the quality of Canada's drinking water remains very high." When asked whether the drink tap water, she replied, "Everybody else is that, and yes, I do—I drink it straight from the tap." Given what happened in Walkerton, however, some Canadians are no longer willing to do the same.

Despite their image as centers of pollution, municipalities are more likely to tap water than the smaller neighbors. Big cities can afford sophisticated water treatment plants, which effectively guard against microbes, says Barry Thomas, a senior Health Canada official who served on the federal-provincial guidelines subcommittee. "Leaving small towns on their own in handling water treatment, which is so critical to public health, is irresponsible," says Thomas. "You just cannot leave that kind of thing in the hands of people who are not experts."

Recent government action has shaken some Canadians'

perceptions about water safety. Some provinces, including Ontario and Nova Scotia, do not keep a registry of how many times communities are forced to boil water. That, environmentalists say, leaves them with an incomplete picture of their water quality. There is no standard procedure for sharing test results among different levels of government and the public. When contaminants are found in the water, laws in most provinces require results directly to the provincial government. Only Quebec and Ontario rely on municipalities to inform them when something is wrong. Sometimes, the public is left out of the loop. Last November, Newfoundland Environment Minister Oliver Langdon denied CBC Radio's request for information on microbials in drinking water, saying it was a cabinet secret. (Contaminated THMs are the byproducts of treating water high in organic matter with chlorine.) Two months later, after a series of news reports, Langdon argued Newfoundland when he held a media conference to say 63 communities scored between 1985 and 1999 had THM levels above the recommended limit, some as much as five times higher.

Recent government action has shaken some Canadians'

With Mark Nichols, Sam Ferguson and Andy Cameron in Toronto

Provincial Survey:

	British Columbia	Alberta	Saskatchewan	Manitoba	Ontario	Quebec	New Brunswick	P.E.I.	Nova Scotia	Newfoundland	Yukon	Northeast Territories	Nunavut
Funding for labs:	provincial except Vancouver and Victoria	municipal	provincial	shared	municipal	municipal	municipal	municipal	municipal	provincial	territorial, except Whitehorse	territorial	territorial
Private or public labs:	both	both	both	private	private	private	both	public	both	both	public	public	public
Number of boil orders in effect in 1999:	209	4+	1	records not compiled	records not compiled	533	25	2	records not compiled	records not compiled	0	24+	0
Percentage of boil orders due to E. coli/total contamination:	records not compiled	50	100	records not compiled	records not compiled	records not compiled	90	records not compiled	records not compiled	records not compiled	0	—	—

*Data is a preliminary test index because of water volatility

**Data is preliminary but water tested consistently below water treatment facility

Residents of Walkerton ask who is to blame
and how the disaster could have been averted

SEARCHING FOR ANSWERS

By John Nicol in Walkerton

Even in the seclusion of her church office, Pastor Beth Conroy could not escape Walkerton's toll of tragedy. The last of the television and the radio had just left the parking lot of Trinity Lutheran Church, and now the minister was trying to steel a few moments to contemplate how the Ontario town of 5,000 could heal itself. Then, the phone rang. As she listened, Conroy's face became sad, her voice even more somber—as the caller informed her that deaths from the lethal strain of *E. coli* in the town's water had reached seven (by week's end, the center was investigating four more). Seconds later Conroy hung up, the whirr of helicopter blades could be heard as yet another critically ill patient was transferred from the local hospital to a larger facility in London, Ont. But Conroy tried to put a brave face on things. People in poorer parts of the world, she noted, "live with this kind of water on a daily basis, and they don't get generous gifts or so many people volunteering to help. For many, hearing a helicopter means war and guns, yet they don't have medical means to treat the victims. One thing this community has to understand is how blessed we are."

For many residents nestled along this part of the Sturgeon River valley in southwestern Ontario, in the richest province in one of the richest countries of the world, understanding was in short supply. Last week, Walkerton seemed to have become part movie set, gun-ghost town. As the media arrived—including reporters from BBC and CNN—broadcasts of the community's misfortune to the world, hundreds of residents escaped to bunk with friends and relatives elsewhere. Some who had been afflicted with the *Escherichia coli* bacteria were recovering from their symptoms, which included seven bouts of bloody diarrhea, but others were not so for-



Karlef with his wife and daughter; a resilient town, she, residents say, will be able to recover from tragedy

tnuous. Almost everyone felt at least some connection to the deceased—Lorette Al was a former part-time librarian. Betty Trudarska was the town-hall janitor's wife. Mary Rose Raymond was the two-year-old daughter of a woman from nearby Hanover. Familiar faces from the Walkerton area—gone.

Questions, meanwhile, piled up faster than answers tickled out. At a town council meeting, Linda Demich, a grandmother of two Walkerton children stricken by the bug, sponsored the frustration. "When are we going to get a straight answer on what is happening to our children in this town?" she screamed. Later, Demich told reporters her questions were basic. "Why did this happen?" she asked. "How are we going to stop it? When will it be safe for our kids to go out and play?" And at baseball diamonds, outside the firehall, a check-out

No poet was ever inspired by a parking lot.

Or used a driveway as a metaphor for life.

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Harris exhibiting Olfaction on May 26: critics say X-ray pictures are at fault

concern and through at least one class-action lawsuit, people were also pursuing the big issue who is to blame?

At Queen's Park, the opposition pointed at Premier Mike Harris. In 1995, the new Tory government closed down all four government water laboratories and handed responsibility for water and sewage to municipalities. Walkerton had always been in charge of its own water supply but with no system of certification for private labs and no real legal requirements for testing water and reporting, the scene was set, critics say, for the collapse of what fragile checks and balances existed. Last week, a visibly shaken Dan Nowram, the provincial environment minister, promised tough new regulations to tighten up the system. By Wednesday, with telephones ringing off the hook and a media circus pressing for more, the Tories gave in to opposition demands for an independent public inquiry.

Premiere then moved for compensation for the E. coli victims and their families, and at week's end the government announced an initial \$100,000 emergency fund. Operation of Walkerton's water and sewage system, meanwhile, was handed over to Ontario's Clean Water Agency, a Crown corporation that oversees about one-third of the municipal systems in the province. The first step: flushing the pipes in the community's 2,400 buildings, which at an estimated rate of 200 locations a day should take about two weeks to complete. Even at that, officials warn it could be as long as two months before residents can safely turn on the taps again.

Investigators are now focusing on the town's three main wells and the underground water basin that feed them as the possible source of contamination. "A preliminary hydro-geologic investigation established that all three wells have possible pathways that would allow contamination to enter," engineers Steve Bennis told a news conference last last week. A contributing factor could have been the torrential downpour that struck on May 12 and caused flooding, although investigations have ruled out the runoff as a principal reason.

Could it have been avoided? No—that was the conclusion of Dr. Murray McQuigge, medical officer of health for the Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound Health Unit. On May 23, he held a news conference and told the local Public Utility Commission had been aware of problems with the town's water five days before that when McQuigge, who had learned from an

emission, attended a private church service at Trinity Lutheran, accompanied by his wife and two children. He did not speak, but stood next to his Toronto-based lawyer, Bill Trudell, who told a gathering in the church parking lot his client was under doctor's care (at week's end he was also under police protection). "He is a man who is suffering a great deal, along with many others," Trudell said. "He has been devastated with the loss of lives, and suggestions that he or anyone is to blame. However, he is very grateful for the compassion and understanding that has been shown."

Some residents of Walkerton went sympathetic towards Koebel. And as the community rallied and volunteers distributed donated supplies of diapers, water, bleach and juice at the community centre, some also remained optimistic. "It's going to be tough for a while, but I do believe we'll get back on track," said local realtor agent Paul Kramerson. "This is a resilient little community—when this is all over, we'll probably have the best water in the country."

But opinions on the provincial government were another matter, as both locals and opposition MPs took aim at the Harris Tories. Liberal environment critic and former environment minister Jim Bradley noted that a Walkerton-style crisis was unavoidable, given that the Harris government has cut about 40 per cent (\$400 million) of the Environment budget and laid off 900 of the ministry's 2,400 employees since 1995. But Bradley, speaking in the legislature, went further: he demanded that when the dust settled, the Tories also develop a secret legal strategy to deal with the possibility of civil suits arising from allegations of negligence. This means, Bradley claimed, that the Tories knew full well outbreaks would make it difficult to protect the environment.

For many, the answer is simple: Queen's Park should still be responsible for water safety. "The provincial government's lack of involvement has set the stage for this to happen," said one former environmental ministry field inspector. According to McQuigge, the Walkerton tragedy showed that clean water should not be taken for granted. "It doesn't get any more basic," he told *Maclean's* in his Owen Sound office. "Clean water is the state of public health back in the 1800s" in Walkerton, that lesson has been learned at a terrible cost.

With Cheryl Hawkes in Toronto

IS BOTTLED BETTER?

On a remote hillside about 90 km northwest of Waferton, Ore., springwater flows to the surface to form a clear pool. The area, surrounded by trees and about 1.5 km from the nearest farm, is fenced. Every month, Echo Springs Water Co. Ltd. employs pump about 4.5 million litres of the water through a stainless-steel pipe and haul it by truck to the company's plant in Missouga, Ore., about 120 km to the south. After plant workers have treated it to extract microbes and other impurities, the water is bottled and sold across Canada and in the United States. Echo Springs' president Mark Nishols estimates that the firm's sales this year

director at the association, "it has to be fixed within 90 days. Our standards are extremely high."

The system seems to work. Health Canada officials say that, as far as anyone knows, no outbreaks of waterborne disease in Canada have ever been linked to bottled water. And officials from Ottawa's Food Inspection Agency say they field few complaints. Blake Ireland, who supervises seven Hamilton-based federal food inspectors, says serious problems rarely crop up. Consumer complaints, says Ireland, are usually about taste or smell—"sometimes if a bottle is left sitting with the cap off for a while, it can get a kind of plastic smell."

Canadian water bottlers produce a variety of products. Whole Spoonful Waters Ltd. of Surrey, B.C., bottles glacier water from Toba Inlet, 150 km northwest of Vancouver. Edmonton's Rocky Mountain Springs Water Inc. pumps water from a mountain spring 1,310 m above sea level and sells 610,000 litres a month to local homes and businesses. There are also bottling firms, including some of the Canadian plants operated by French-controlled Caillan International, which draw their water from municipal systems, purify it and market the result as purified water. "That bothers some people," says the CBRN's Griswold. "The knee-jerk reaction is, why spend money on tap wa-

Canadians drink millions of litres—so safety is paramount

Checking quality in Echo Springs' Missouga plant: purifying water in ways



ter? But when it's been treated, it's not tap water anymore. Water bottlers use cleansing systems that can remove—if not completely eliminate—bacteria, minerals and other impurities. At its Woodstock, Ont., plant, Caillan of Canada Inc. runs city-treated water through six forms of additional purification, including carbon filtration, ultraviolet light sterilization and reverse osmosis—a process that forces water through membranes to screen out dissolved minerals. At Echo Springs' plant, water is treated with ozone—a form of oxygen that is 3,000 times more effective in killing bacteria than chlorine—then filtered through a mesh whose spaces are equal in size to 1/100th the width of a human hair.

Now, Ottawa plans to make even bottled water requirements even stricter. Regulations that could take effect next year will likely require more detailed labelling information and force bottlers to be more vigilant than ever in eradicating bacteria—including the lethal strain that surfaced in Walkerton.

Mark Nishols



It better be. Canadians, turned off by bad-tasting, sometimes smelly tap water—and alarmed by outbreaks of deadly waterborne infections—consumed 703 million litres of bottled water in 1998, the latest year for which figures are available. To meet strict federal safety standards, more than 200 Canadian bottling firms take water from a safe, protected source, then subject it to processes that include filtration, distillation and exposure to ultraviolet light. Federal inspectors tour most bottling firms once a year. Most Canadian bottlers also follow the even more stringent standards of the Richmond Hill, Ont.-based Canadian Bottled Water Association, whose own inspectors regularly descend on plants unannounced. "If we find anything wrong," says Elizabeth Griswold, executive

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Visitors salute the coffin of the Unknown Soldier, a long time away

poetry. The coffin is at the far end, and it will take about 10 minutes to get there. All down the Hall of Honour, people shuffle along, waiting their turn. Along the wall is a glass case in which the Constitution. Sometimes, people look up, admiring the beauty of the long hallway, its high arches and limestone pillars. When was the last time they were in the Parliament Buildings?

It's very quiet. Some people speak softly to each other. There are sounds of shoes on the floor and the creak of jackets, as those who have paid their respects walk back down the hall. The coffin is draped with a Canadian flag, some lights have been dimmed. Despite the formal surroundings, there are the feelings that might be expected in such a situation.

Five representatives of the Canadian Forces stand at each corner and behind the coffin. There are three groups of five senators, and each group will rotate through vigil duty in 25-minute shifts. One looks to be a teenager, perhaps a cadet. They lean on their guns, the barrel end pointing to the right, hands resting on the butt. Their heads are bowed. Their necks must ache to hold that position for so long, but they stand perfectly still. On the floor in front of the coffin are wreaths on behalf of various official organizations. Two or three men look as if they were dropped in place by ordinary Canadians.

A military chaplain kneels in prayer. Once at the coffin, people approach, usually in pairs, pausing for five to 10 seconds, giving respects. When veterans come, people nod and eye them with respect. Upon leaving, they will pass four sets of guest books and pens in the Rotunda, carefully arranged on wooden stands where they can sign their names and leave a message. When they finish, they turn and go back into the night, to continue on with the rest of their weekend and their everyday lives. When we get to the guest book, we see that one person from Montreal wrote simply, "Welcome home!" It's been a long time.

Liberals lose ground

A national poll shows the federal Liberal party's popularity has dropped seven percentage points in the past two months to 49 per cent. Meanwhile, support for the new Canadian Alliance party has almost doubled in the same period, and now stands at 19 per cent. The Tories were fifth, behind the New Democrats (11 per cent) and Bloc Québécois (10 per cent), at nine per cent.

A judgment on raves

A Toronto inquest into the death of Allan Ho, 21, who collapsed at a rave last October after taking the drug ecstasy, has recommended that the all-night parties be permitted, as long as they are held in city-licensed venues and unlimited water is provided. The report also emphasized educating the public about drugs, but stopped short of condemning drug use altogether.

Charges of abuse

A citywide warrant was issued for Glen Douglas, 62, a Roman Catholic brother charged with 36 sex offences against naive children at two B.C. residential schools. Douglas faces allegations of sexually abusing 13 young people, between the ages of 6 and 16, in the 1960s and 1970s. Thirteen the second time he has been charged with abuse. In 1991, Douglas was convicted of sexually abusing naive boys.

Toxic coffee in Quebec

Police in Quebec City are trying to determine how many of a toxic gas got into vending-machine coffee that made 27 students at Laval University sick. The machine was seized by police after students complained of vomiting, dizziness, fever and blurred vision.

Money for the homeless

Clarete Bradburn, the federal minister in charge of dealing with the problem of homelessness, announced \$305 million in federal funding intended to help homeless people get back on their feet by providing either secure or supportive and transitional housing. Some critics, however, said Ottawa should be concentrating on providing affordable, permanent housing.

Soldiers cited in bizarre poisoning

The chief of defense appointed a panel to investigate the alleged poisoning in 1993 of a Canadian soldier by troops in his platoon in Canada. Gen. Maurice Baril wants the panel to follow up on an investigation.

His report released last week regarding Warren Officer Man Staphord "I want to ensure that the events disclosed in the report are fully understood," said Baril. Staphord's coffin was allegedly found with chemicals such as antiseptic and floor blackener in an attempt to render him too sick to do his job. A medical report of the poisoning to senior officers at the time, but nothing was done to stop it, and Staphord was never told of the conspiracy. Because of the nature of the charges, no charges will be laid.



Staphord, placed in a casket

But an RCMP officer in Crossin at the time, who did not want to be identified, said the panel uncovered a cover-up. He said it should focus on what prompted soldiers to poison the coffin. Staphord was a John Wayne type who forced his troops to take too many risks, the RCMP officer said, adding soldiers feared for their lives.

Staphord, who is blind in one eye and suffers seizures and various other health ailments that keep him bedridden, says he plans to sue the department of national defence and the federal government for not informing him of the plot. "If the only way to make the army accountable for their actions is to take them to a civil court, I'm going to have to do it," said Staphord from his Penarth, Ont., home. "I wouldn't mind an apology from both the government and DND for not telling me for seven years that my guys tried to poison me."

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Chrétien struts his political stuff in Berlin

Prime Minister Jean Chrétien used an appearance at an international leadership conference in Berlin to kick off at Canada's political night—and herald his credentials as the "moral voice" in advance of a possible federal election next year. After talks with six-headed politicians, including U.S. President Bill Clinton and French Prime Minister Lionel Jospin, Chrétien took part in the new Canadian Alliance party. "There are other jobs in society than caring taxes," he declared, "than fulfilling the greed of those who will never have enough."

Jane Stewart's woes

It was a turbulent week for Human Resources Minister Jane Stewart. First, she yielded to public pressure and ordered the so-called Big Brother database dismantled—even though she had earlier defended the program (the database holds up to 2,600 pages of information on almost every Canadian, including records of employment). Then, a Liberal-dominated

committee issued a report saying the federal government needs to "rethink the whole concept" of the troubled human resources department, maintaining it had become too cumbersome to manage and should be split up. Some opposition MPs used the report to call for the resignation of Stewart, who stated, "I guess when you think about it, it's probably not perfect structure when it comes to the functions of government."

Letter from Ottawa

Home, on the Hill

Close to the Peace Tower, a moving memory of war

By Mary Gordon

At 9 p.m. on Friday in Ottawa, the lines peacefully grow, extending out the front door down the stairs into a chilly May night. This is neither the bar scene of the ByWard Market, nor a movie theatre. At the Centre Block of the Parliament Buildings, people are waiting, they wear flannel jackets, sweaters and jeans, scarves or running shoes. Some look as though they were on their way somewhere else and have stopped to see what was going on.

Then again, some are dressed in their best clothes, and some men are in suits. A few, like the man in front of us, have medals pinned on their jackets. We have been in line for about 15 minutes, a few yards from the base of the Peace Tower, when a security officer approaches our man and asks if he is a veteran. Yes, the man replies.

"You can go right ahead, sir."

"I know," he responds. "The just waiting for my wife."

She has fallen behind, because she's explaining what the lineup is about to a couple who look to be tourists from Europe. Inside, she tells them, is a coffin, and in it the body of the Unknown Soldier. Until recently, she tells them, his remains were buried near Vimy, France,

some of the battle where 3,598 Canadian soldiers fell in battle during the First World War. Today at Vimy, a memorial bears a carved inscription explaining that 11,285 Canadian soldiers were "missing, presumed dead" in France during the Great War. The government of Canada decided it was time to honour those soldiers who never returned a proper burial. So, in the tradition of Britain and France, one soldier's remains were selected to represent them, and flown home last month. All that is known is that he was a Canadian.

The couple from Europe nod, ask some questions, and join the line. The veteran wife returns to her husband and they proceed inside. Above, funny carved faces of gnomes and heads of all kinds poke from the side of the Peace Tower. Across the lawn, corporate logos shine from atop buildings on Sparks Street. They seem outrageous from where we stand, in the home of the democratic process that made this country what it is. Fifteen minutes later, we reach the front of the line. We're now inside Parliament, at the top of stairs that lead to the Hall of Honour, where the Unknown Soldier lies in state.

"We ask you to please refrain from taking any pictures, and please turn off your cellphones," a security officer says



A novel in Belfast: head of Sinn Féin, Gerry Adams (below left); Trimble, a conviction by the IRA

sharing initiative convened at Stormont Castle outside Belfast for an IRA meeting since it disappeared earlier this year over the mainstream IRA's refusal to publicly disarm.

Clearly, security officials in England, Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic are under no illusion as to the identity of the culprits. "I am not going to speculate," stated deputy assistant commissioner Alan Fry, head of the London Metropolitan Police's anti-terrorist branch. "But clearly Irish terrorists of some sort would be a line of inquiry." Back in Belfast, John Taylor, deputy leader of the Protestant Ulster Unionist Party, was more forthcoming. "I would expect it to be the hardline groups within the republican movement, something like the Real IRA or the Continuity IRA," he said as he emerged from a party gathering at Stormont in the wake of the bomb blast. "Clearly, their objective is to upset the Provisional IRA program of putting its arms out of use."

It was that decision by the Provisionals, as the mainstream IRA is called, that finally put the peace process back on track. Under pressure by both the Irish government in Dublin and Sinn Féin, the IRA's political wing, the clandestine army reluctantly agreed last month to a scheme to put its arsenal—thought to include 100 tonnes of Semtex as well as scores of light and heavy weapons—"completely and verifiably beyond use." Rather than submit to outright arms decommissioning as sought by the Protestants, the IRA consented to regular inspection of its secret arms dumps in the Irish republic by a two-member team of international inspectors, composed of former Finnish president Martti Ahtisaari and Cyril Ramaphosa, former secretary general of South Africa's African National Congress.

That move, in turn, allowed Ulster Unionist leader David Trimble two weeks ago to win—by a more than 56-vote margin—the approval of his party's 800-member ruling council to re-open government alongside members of Sinn Féin. Hardliners on both sides of the sectarian divide are determined to topple the fragile edifice outlined in the Good Friday agreement: a 12-member executive led by Trimble, the 108-member assembly elected last year in an Ulster-wide vote and the half-dozen planned but not-yet-implemented "cross-border" institutions designed to facilitate co-operation between Northern Ireland, the Irish Republic and the British government in London. And if that world, harboring a very indication, they have the means to damage the process.

In terms of numbers, the republican dissidents in Ulster's Catholic community are insignificant. Security officials in Belfast and Dublin estimate that there are no more than 25 to 45 experienced field operatives in the Real IRA and even fewer in the more ideological, but violent Continuity IRA. But they are capable of wreaking great havoc. It was the Real IRA that was responsible for the worst atrocity in 30 years of

civil strife, the car bomb explosion on the main street of Omagh in Ulster in August, 1998, that killed 29 people. The fear is that the bomb at Harrensmith Bridge may signal the start of another serious campaign by Irish dissidents.

Seven months ago, Scotland Yard announced that Britain was on its highest level of terrorist alert since 1998 because of the threat posed by Irish republican extremists. Since that warning, the Garda, the Irish police, have foiled several attempts to ship arms and explosives to Britain. Last October, a Garda said on a Real IRA bunker and underground firing range confirmed fears that the group's leader had been able to open a new arms supply from the Balkans.

In the Protestant camp, the opposition to everything contained in the Good Friday agreement is acknowledged to violence but is a lot riskier. Led by the irresponsible Rev. Ian Paisley and his Democratic Unionist Party, the dissidents are determined to tear the peace process to shreds. Last week, Paisley's DUP agreed to ride up the two sets they are entitled to occupy on the Northern Ireland executive but only in the hope of rendering the entire process unworkable. "We intend to defect," vowed DUP deputy leader Peter Robinson, "in an agenda that is aimed at achieving a united Ireland."

Ironically, Robinson's erstwhile Belfast constituency is likely to



The peace process is back on track, but dissidents are intent on derailing the fragile accord

be the most direct beneficiary of Bombardier's \$200-million investment. It is the size of Shaw Brothers' principal operations: the aerospace factories that supply Eurojet and engine casings for Bombardier's Canadian regional jet and the company's Challenger and Global Express business jets. Bombardier is already the largest single employer in Northern Ireland, with a workforce of 6,020 and will increase that number by 20 per cent over the next three years.

Many of the new workers will be Catholics, in line with Bombardier's ongoing attempts to bridge Ulster's sectarian divide. Once the launch of Protestant-owned Shaw, Shaw Brothers newswoman a workforce in which Catholics make up 13 per cent. "We're proud of our record here," said Bombardier Aerospace president Geoff. "If we can deliver a measure of economic benefit that will help secure a better and more stable future for everyone in the community, we'll be even more proud." Most of Northern Ireland's non-working population would likely agree with that view. But there are still a dangerous few who would prefer to throw bombs, both real ones as well as the rhetorical kind. ■

World

Ulster Tries Again

By Barry Caine in Belfast

Canadian dollars and a terrorist bomb. The two may not have much in common, but both symbolized the mixture of messages emerging from Northern Ireland last week as self-government returned to the troubled province. The Canadian funds—a \$200-million investment by Montreal's Bombardier last—amounted to a vote of confidence in Northern Ireland's future now that the long-stalled peace process is once again under way. "We're encouraged by the progress," declared Bombardier Aerospace president Michael Gruff, unveiling a program to create 1,200 new jobs at the company's Short Brothers subsidiary in Belfast. But only hours later, just before dawn last Thursday, a far more ominous portent literally exploded beneath London's Harrensmith Bridge. The bomb, almost certainly the work of Irish Republican Army dissidents, served as a grim

reminder that Ulster's agonies are far from a final resolution.

Nobody was injured and, at worst end, no organization had claimed responsibility for the blast, which inflicted only minor damage on the bridge, a major artery across the Thames River in southern London. But the operation bore all the hallmarks of IRA headline-splitting groups dedicated to scuttling the 1998 Good Friday Agreement, under which Northern Ireland's Protestant and Roman Catholic communities have agreed to share political power in an effort to bring an end to the province's 30 years of sectarian strife. The explosives used—two kilos of East European-manufactured Semtex plastic—have long been favored by the IRA's bomb-makers. Harrensmith Bridge, a graceful 113-year-old historical landmark of green steel and weathered concrete, has once before been an IRA target, the last time in 1996 when 17 kilos of Semtex failed to explode. Finally, the timing itself was significant, occurring on the same day as Ulster's power-



Canada and the presidency

At least one thing's clear about American politics given their draught, Canadians generally would rather have a Democrat than a Republican over for dinner. Democrats, as a rule, are more inclined to support social programs and "progressive" values. They're less inclined to treat governments like the enemy, excuse people or insist on saying a prayer before the meal. In a word, they're more like us.

All of which gave a superficial plausibility to a report in the *National Post* last week that Raymond Charbon, Canada's ambassador in Washington, had tilted heavily to Al Gore (Democrat) over George W. Bush (Republican) in assessing Canada's allies in the U.S. presidential election. Charbon, it was, had all but endorsed Gore in speeches before a conference of senior civil servants in Ottawa. "We know Vice-President Gore. He knows us. He's a friend of Canada," Bush, on the other hand, doesn't know much about the country, as evidenced by his instantly notorious comment to Rick Mercer of *This Hour Has 22 Minutes* welcoming the support of Prime Minister "Jean Poutine" ("even that's a bit of a burn up. It was Mercer who shouted a question about 'Poutine' at a money campaign event. Bush just didn't correct him").

The ambassador's office, of course, denies the implication that Ottawa is rooting for Gore. Charbon was, they said, just weighing the implications for Canada—and in fact he is much too experienced a diplomat and too savvy a politician to do anything so intervening as commit himself definitively either way. But Charbon's remarks did raise an important question—do we, as they say down South, have a dog in this fight?

Gore, as the ambassador noted, does have a strong personal reason to feel warm towards Canada. In April, 1989, his son, Albert III, was struck by a car and severely injured as they were leaving an Orioles baseball game in Baltimore. The boy was just 6 at the time, he suffered a broken thigh and shoulder blade, as well as an injured spleen, lung and kidney. Three months after surgery he still could not use his right arm.

Gore, at the time a senior doctor at Tennessee, searched all over the world for the best doctor for his son. Finally, he contacted Dr. Alan Hudson, then chief of neurosurgery at Toronto General Hospital, now president of Toronto's University Health Network. In July, 1989, Hudson and an

American colleague successfully operated on the boy in New Orleans, after Hudson advised Gore that it would be politically wiser for Gore if the work was done in the United States.

According to Charbon (exaggerating, quite a bit), "he is still grateful for Canada to have saved the life of his son." That and those dollars, however, will give you a fancy coffee at Starbucks. Canadians shouldn't hold their breath waiting for favour from President Gore (if that's how things turn out). The cross-border relationship is much too important to both sides to turn on sentiment.

And on the surface, it's not as if clear that President Gore was under Republicans Ronald Reagan and Bush Sr., after all, that Washington and Ottawa reached their historic free trade deal. Gore is also a free trader, but his close ties to big U.S. unions pull him in a more protectionist direction. Bush, by contrast, is firmly in his party's big-business, free-trading, FTA's more likely to win support in Congress for "free trade" authority to negotiate new deals, like the proposed "Free Trade Area of the Americas" that Canada supports. And while Bush may not be familiar with Canada (he's never visited, says his office), he has a strong foreign policy team that includes many people from his father's administration. They know us well.

Gore is stronger on the environment than Bush, which could be both good and bad for Canada. He might fight new efforts in Congress to open environmentally sensitive parts of Alaska, bordering Yukon, to oil drilling. But a Gore administration might also push harder than Clinton likes for big reductions in continental air pollution—yet Ottawa singled out as a major contributor. Bush, meanwhile, is proposing a more ambitious missile defence plan than the Clinton-Gore administration. A Bush Pentagon would likely step up pressure on Ottawa to go along with "Star Wars II."

Another big unknown is who will control Congress—it was Republicans on Capitol Hill who gave Ambassador Charbon some of his worst headaches over the past few years, on issues like Cuba and border controls. The Democrats need to pick up just six seats in November to win back the House of Representatives. And that could be as important to Canada as a change of party at the White House.



Charbon, a dog in the fight?

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Hope for the hostages

Hope ran high that Prime Minister Mahendra Chaudhry of Fiji and 29 other hostages could soon be released in a deal with the military government now running the country. Rebel leader George Speight seized the hostages on May 19, claiming to represent the Pacific island's majority ethnic Fijians, many of them angry that Chaudhry, a member of the Indian minority, came to power. Speight could be appointed to lead a new government.

Clinton aims for peace

U.S. President Bill Clinton emerged from a meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak in Lisbon to declare that a peace deal between Israelis and Palestinians is at hand. If Clinton can kick-start the stalled process, Barak and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat could sign an accord this summer. But they remain far apart on key issues, including the size of a Palestinian state.

Peru election protests

Despite massive street protests, Peru's National Electoral Council refused to overturn the election of President Alberto Fujimori. The run-off vote was boycotted by challenger Alejandro Toledo, who claimed the first round giving Fujimori a majority was rigged.

Elisa denied asylum

Shouting "Bring back Elvira," half a million women gathered near Havana to protest another delay in Elisa González's return to Cuba. A U.S. appellate court panel cleared the way for her return to Cuba by ruling that the boy, rescued when his mother drowned in a shipwreck while trying to bring him to the United States last November, does not have the right to an asylum hearing. But Elvira's Miami relatives were given 14 days to appeal.

A promise from Vietnam

Vietnam promised to release 74-year-old Tina Thi Cam, a Canadian, by Sept. 2 from a prison where she has served four years on a drug-smuggling charge. Her daughter was executed in April for her role in the alleged crime. The decision to release Tina was part of a general amnesty.

World Notes



Terror at a Luxembourg day care

A woman comforts a child at a day-care centre in Luxembourg, where a lone gunman held 26 people, 25 of them children, hostage for 30 hours. The stand-off ended after police, using a gun disguised as a camera, shot and wounded the man after he was tricked into thinking he was giving a TV interview.

Ethiopian troops on the march

Sporadic fighting continued between Ethiopian and Eritrean forces as diplomats struggled to find a solution to the two-year border war between the two East African countries. The war remained in a bloody stalemate until Ethiopian forces broke through on May 18 and advanced to within 100 km of the Eritrean capital, Asmara. Eritrea became independent from Ethiopia in 1993, and this is the third outbreak of prolonged combat since the two sides went to war in May, 1998, over a tiny sliver of land along Eritrea's northwest border.

Thousands of soldiers have been killed on both sides in the latest round of fighting, while nearly 500,000 people have fled adjoining Ethiopian troops, who last week entered determined to reach Asmara. Negotiations for both countries involved to Algeria for indirect peace talks being held through African, European and U.S. envoys. But Ethiopian's leaders, who held the upper hand, made it clear they would not end the war until the signing of a final peace accord in which Eritrea gives up any claim to disputed lands.

1998, over a tiny sliver of land along Eritrea's northwest border.

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Canada and the fight against AIDS

Canada will triple the amount of money it spends fighting AIDS in developing countries over the next three years to \$120 million. Maria Mirna, minister for international co-operation, made the announcement at an international AIDS conference in Toronto. In addition to AIDS education, the money will be spent to fund research into new medicines to combat the disease. Mirna hopes the new measures will drastically cut the number of new AIDS cases.

Riding High



J. C. Anderson, one of the last of Alberta's old-style oilmen, is on a roll as natural gas prices surge

By Brian Bergman in Calgary

After nearly five decades in the oil and gas trade, J.C. Anderson means an almost boyish enthusiasm for the sheer sport of scouting out the next big find. "You are out there marching with against Mother Nature," says the 69-year-old founder and CEO of Calgary-based Anderson Exploration Ltd. "You're trying to find this stuff that you can't see, you can't touch, that's all below the surface. It's exploration, in the true sense, and it's a pretty exciting game." Even the notorious fickleness of the industry—based on commodity prices that can explode as quickly as they deflate—fills to drench the challenge. "You have to be able to survive the valleys

as well as the peaks," says Anderson, his Nebraska-bred dad still intact after 35 years in Canada. "And for sure, when you are on a peak, there will be another valley."

J.C., as he is known to everyone in the oilpatch (the initials stand for James Carl), is definitely on a peak these days. The company he started as a one-man operation in 1968 has blossomed into the seventh-largest gas producer in Canada, employing 900. Bulwarring natural gas prices are one key to his success, but so are a series of audacious takeover bids. In 1995, Anderson finished the \$1.2-billion acquisition of Home Oil Co. Ltd., then the subject of a hostile takeover bid by industry giant Amoco Canada Petroleum Co. Ltd. In May, he was at it again, successfully snatching the mid-sized Ulster Petroleum Ltd. from the clutches of another hostile bidder, Dallas-based Hunt Oil Co., for \$970 million. The takeovers have consolidated Anderson's position as a premier gas player in Western Canada—and in the potentially lucrative fields of the far North. "Both acquisitions were brilliant," says Peter Linder, a senior energy analyst with Calgary's Harris Partners. "J.C. has the ability to see the big picture and

Anderson, in his ranch attire in Calgary, at 69, still working the hard to spend much time there

be underneath the natural gas business second to none."

Among senior producers, Anderson Exploration is the most heavily weighted towards natural gas, 67 per cent of its reserves and 75 per cent of current production are tied to the commodity. With spot gas prices in Alberta now soaring to more than \$5 per gigajoule (an industry standard roughly equivalent to 1,000 cubic feet), that emphasis seems prescient. But it didn't always look that way. When Anderson started his company, many still considered gas—then fetching a paltry 12 cents per gigajoule—an undesirable byproduct of oil. "It's stuck with gas through it all," notes Linder. "I remember him preaching in the mid-1990s to expect a very tight supply of natural gas by the end of the decade. We're seeing it right now and, with it, record-high gas prices in North America for this time of year."

Tight supplies, due to declining production, are one factor driving gas prices upward—and prompting some analysts to issue about a six-month Alberta "gap" that threatens to strain all of the industry's traditional lodgings. The other element is an assumed pipeline capacity and escalating demand in the United States, where gas is becoming the fuel of choice for residential uses and for gas-fired electric plants.

Anderson seems uniquely positioned to take advantage of the recent surge of interest in a resource he's chased since the early 1950s, when he worked on northeast gangs along the Texas gulf coast. Dirty, blue-spoken and armed with a dry wit, Anderson is, in many ways, a throwback to an earlier era of colorful oilmen who worked their way up from the ground floor—a far cry from the buttoned-down financiers now occupying many oilpatch executive offices. "He's like one of these classic oilmen you see in the movies," says Bob Lamond, chairman of Calgary-based Dixie Resources Ltd. and a fellow gas industry veteran. "If you phone him about a deal, you get an immediate answer back, whereas with many companies it just disappears into a committee. He's a hard-on decision-maker, no nonsense, but with that impish sense of humor. Of course, he's a very large imp."

Born and raised in Oakland, Neb., Anderson earned a degree in petroleum engineering at the University of Texas in Austin and was eventually hired by Amoco. He held several American postings before arriving in Calgary in January, 1966, as the company's chief engineer for Canada. Impressed by the amount of opportunity in Alberta, Anderson soon struck out on his own.

His first big success came in 1970 when he investigated the Peace River Ache area of northwestern Alberta, which others in the industry had drilled and dismissed as unproductive.

"I saw some indications of natural fracking, which is rare on the plains of Alberta," he recalls. "That intrigued me because I had a lot of experience with the Gulf Coast, where natural faults often form the traps for hydrocarbons." Anderson drilled and discovered 1.4 million cubic feet of gas, one of the larger fields in Canada at the time, and one that is still in production.

Over the years, Anderson continued to build his company through acquisitions and exploration. But his fortunes took a quantum leap in 1995 when, just before his 63rd birthday, he acquired the Home Oil takeover. Anderson admits to several sleepless nights as he contemplated a deal that more than doubled the size of his operations—not to mention taking on his old employer Amoco, which had put Home Oil into play with a hostile bid. But Anderson moved quickly, trimming staff and executive frills at the debt-ridden company and aggressively developing some of Home Oil's under-explored properties, especially in the gas sector.

With Anderson's purchase of Ulster Petroleum—the agreed to pay roughly 20 per cent more than what Hunt Oil offered—he sacrificed his reputation as a man who loves the thrill of the chase. In both the Ulster and Home Oil cases, Anderson says his company had spent months investigating the prospective targets before the hostile bids precipitated a move. "If we were a white knight," he adds, "we were a knowledgeable one and that's a good position to be in."

Despite his own cautions, that valleys inevitably follow peaks, Anderson believes that high gas prices are sustainable for the foreseeable future—much to the chagrin of consumers. And as long as prices hold, the company that has seen its profits soar by 286 per cent in the last two quarters is sitting pretty for its next big play: it'll likely be in the Mackenzie Delta, exploiting some Home Oil properties, if and when a long-delayed northern pipeline is finally constructed.

"People say, 'What the hell are you doing up there, J.C., you're already a senior citizen,'" says Anderson. "My answer is, 'You know, I've quit buying price because, but I think there's a future up there for this business.'"

So how long does the renowned workaholic plan to hang in there? The father of four grown children, none of whom entered the family business ("I guess they see the old man working too hard"), Anderson notes that he has precious little time to enjoy his ranch south of Calgary. And yet? "I see myself here for some time in the future," he says, sipping the desk in his 36th-floor office at the Home Oil Tower in downtown Calgary. "I enjoy it and I think I'm pretty good at it." Few would dispute the claim. ■

Burning bright



Anderson Exploration Ltd.

Reserves	Calgary
1998 reserves	\$890 million
1999 profits	\$70 million
Market capitalization	\$5.7 billion

GRAPH: JEFFREY HARRIS; PHOTO: JEFFREY HARRIS



PricewaterhouseCoopers and Bank of Montreal salute Ingeborg Boyens winner of the National Business Book Award

Ingeborg Boyens has worked for newspapers and magazines across Canada and has been with CBC television for more than a decade, working on national programs like the *Journal*. An award-winning journalist, she currently produces documentaries on food and agricultural issues for *Country Canada*. She lives in Winnipeg.



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Equal rights for cars

Under a final ruling from the World Trade Organization, Canada must modify the Auto Pact and the 6.1-per-cent tariff it imposes on cars imported from overseas that are not produced by the Big Three U.S. automakers. Currently, luxury makes like Mercedes-Benz and Jaguar enter Canada tariff-free because they are owned by DaimlerChrysler and Ford respectively, while independent competitors like BMW and Toyota have to pay. Insiders say Ottawa, required to treat all imports equally, is leaning towards imposing the tariff on all overseas cars rather than scrapping it.

Friendly skies

A Toronto-based company that runs chartered airline flights for travel companies announced that it will launch a new airline aimed at competing with Air Canada for business-class customers. SkyService Airlines Inc. said it will likely offer one or two daily flights on busy routes and provide high-quality service at rates lower than Air Canada's Air Canada, meanwhile, said it will add flights to a range of new overseas destinations, increase staff and spend \$2.5 billion to upgrade its fleet.

The price of comfort

Four Seasons Hotels Inc., the international luxury chain founded by Winnipegger Ladou Stearns, and it plans to expand aggressively into the market for luxury condominiums and timeshare resorts. The company now has 48 buildings and plans to add 19 more around the world over the next three years. Four Seasons has recently been selling 90-square-metre condominiums in San Francisco for \$1.5 million.

Banking overhaul

Finance Minister Paul Martin is moving ahead with wide-ranging new banking legislation that will loosen some ownership rules while giving the government greater control over mergers and acquisitions. Some industry critics had hoped the proposals, outlined in a discussion paper last year, would fade away in a potential fall election boom. They include a grueling procedure for merger approvals.

Business Notes

A \$1-trillion economy

Marking a powerfully surging economy that is firing on all cylinders, Canada's gross domestic product passed the \$1-trillion mark. The record-breaking gain in the value of goods and services was achieved in the first quarter, when the GDP hit \$1,006,952,000,000 on an annual basis. The economy had grown by a yearly rate of 4.9 per cent, continuing a string of consecutive gains that has now gone on for 19 quarters. That is the longest uninterrupted expansion in more than a quarter century. In the same report, Statistics Canada revised its GDP numbers for last year, concluding that the economy grew by 4.5 per cent, instead of 4.2 as previously reported. The new figure pushes Canada ahead of the United States, which



Consumers on the prowl: wages are up

posted growth of 4.2 per cent in 1999. The first-quarter gains were impressive on several fronts, including reports, especially to the United States, and per capita income, which climbed by 1.4 per cent. Finally shaking off the shadow of the last severe recession in the early 1990s, wages showed their biggest three-month rise since the late 1980s, and shoppers were again out in force.

Chapters considers turning a page

Giant bookseller Chapters Inc. of Toronto said it may sell its controlling interest in wholesale book distributor Pegasus Wholesale Inc. Chapters CEO Larry Stevenson said the sale is being considered as a way to bolster Chapters' share price, which is hovering around \$12, compared with a 1999 high of more than \$35. Others, however, suggested that Chapters is trying to satisfy the Competition Bureau, which is reviewing allegations from some booksellers and publishers that Pegasus gives Chapters unfair control over the wholesale distribution of books.

Financial Outlook

The booming world economy could be too much of a good thing. That warning is from the Organization for

Economic Co-operation and Development in its recent financial outlook. The OECD forecasts that member countries' gross domestic product will grow by four per cent this year and another 3.1 per cent in 2001. But it warns that with so many countries booming, there is a risk they will renege one another's growth. That could lead to inflation and other economic ills, which have triggered recessions in the past. The OECD wants governments to refrain from large tax cuts or spending increases and urges Canada to use government surpluses to pay down the debt.



Fighting Net Crime

By Chris Wood

Cpt. Rob Currie is one of the elite of Canada's police: a member of the RCMP's crack Emergency Response Team in Quebec. He is trained to deal with anything from a hostage-taking to acts of terrorism. But when the high-stakes swordfish of the ERT squad handles an e-crime, Currie sheds his Kevlar helmet and body armor, takes off his guns and suits up his sleeves for his real—or at least regular—job, cracking down bad guys in the virtual world of machine code, buffer overflows and snarf attacks. As a computer-crime specialist, the former drug cop now trails the likes of Malibus, the Montreal teenager charged in the attack on the Internet's most-trusted sites in February. And while duty with the ERT may get his heart pumping, it is the explosion of cyber-crime that keeps Currie working 12-hour days. Even though his cyber-crime unit has doubled in size in two years, he says, "we're already behind."

So, it appears, is much of the rest of an increasingly computer-dependent society. Almost daily some new e-mail virus, headed Web site or online data theft call into question the security of the Internet. Last week, elusive digital thieves snarf the potentially lucrative Internet address belonging to Web.net, a small Toronto-based site that hosts hundreds of charities; regular visitors were blocked from the site for most of the week. That attack came on the heels of the "Killer Resume" e-mail virus, which deleted crucial e-mail files from victims' hard drives, often disabling their computers. Before that there was the "Love Bug," February's attack on America.com, Yahoo!, eBay and e.com, and a pair of "Wish tests" who downloaded hundreds of other people's credit-card accounts. Even the Computer Emergency Response Team, or CERT, at Pittsburgh's Carnegie Mellon University—the oldest U.S. group for Internet security—had no secure encryption key displayed.

How can online users be protected? The United States has doled out \$2.2 billion and a new agency to shaking up computer security. In several Group of Eight nations, calls by police for new powers are being answered with potent new

laws: one, in France, would require anyone who "publishes" on the Web to disclose their identity. But until recently, Canada's response has been relatively low-key. Currie's dual roles reflect the nature of a force more used to handling physical attacks than dealing with the virtual world of cyberspace. Now, however, Canadian police units are scrambling to hire computer-savvy officers, and two months ago Ottawa struck a task force to examine the security of the nation's critical infrastructure, including its digital networks.

But cyber-cops are only part of the solution. Software auditors are also taking a closer look at security weaknesses in

Canada's police are only starting to catch up with hackers and other criminals who target online computer users

popular programs. And most experts warn that small ordinary computer users take steps to protect themselves, the apex of hacker attacks is unlikely to lessen.

High-profile eruptions like the Love Bug and attacks on e-commerce sites, in fact, give a skewed impression of the potential for real havoc online. Serious hackers scorn "script kiddies" like Malibus, who is alleged to have crashed CNN's news site with a torrent of electronic missiles. More sophisticated attacks are often concealed from the public—or blamed—by embarrassed businesses. But they happen daily. Computer intrusions reported to CERT tripled last year, to nearly 10,000. The San Francisco-based Computer Security Institute found in one recent study that 70 per cent of Fortune 500 companies surveyed experienced at least one security breach during 1999. Not all are likely to be



Preventing an attack

Experts' advice on how to protect your home or small business computer

- ▶ Back up crucial data frequently to limit losses if an attack is successful.
- ▶ Purchase—and regularly update—a good anti-virus software package.
- ▶ Consider installing an Internet firewall program, which puts up barriers to intrusions.
- ▶ Don't leave your PC running unattended when it has an "always-on" Internet connection such as a cable modem.
- ▶ Look into hacker insurance, offered by several major firms, which covers online security and some forms of liability.



Currie is his Emergency Response team a force more used to handling physical attacks than dealing with cyberspace

At one bulletin-board site, hackers posted more than 50 such exploits in May alone.

In Europe and the United States, countermeasures have been under way for some time. Two years ago, the Clinton administration created a special unit led by the FBI—the National Infrastructure Protection Center—to field reports of criminal attacks on computer systems and co-ordinate investigations. It also awarded millions of dollars to state police. The NIPC has since launched a program, named Infratrain, to involve Internet providers and software makers, among others, in the fight against computer crime. In March, a White House working group on unlawful use of the Internet concluded that "new technologies may justify new forms of investigative authority." FBI director Louis Freeh took up the same call before the Senate. Noting that the agency had opened since its rising "computer intrusion" cases in 1999 as the year before, Freeh asked for expanded powers to trace Internet communications and identify their authors.

In Britain, a bill awaiting House of Lords approval would oblige Internet service providers to install back doors in their data centres, allowing the spooks at MI-5—Britain's domestic intelligence agency—and other agencies to monitor users' online activities. The British Internet industry has created a security forum to

work with government, similar to Infratrain. It was headed by diplomats at a summit of G-8 officials last month dedicated to cyber-crime. While that meeting ended without action, the 41-nation Council of Europe expects to complete an international Convention on Cyber-crime that will be ready for signing by the end of the year.

Apart from international activity, Canada's response seems mild—even nonexistent. The Criminal Code was last updated to reflect changing technology in 1997. There is no Canadian equivalent to Washington's NIPC (although the RCMP performs some of its functions). The Canadian Association of Internet Providers only recently restricted a dormant committee on security, and in president Jay Thomson, was unaware, until asked, of the existence of the U.S. Infratrain group. But the impression that Canada is sleepwalking into a cyber-crime wave is probably unfair. Canadian police forces have been expanding their computer-crime squads

the work of outsiders. Police say many complaints involve disgruntled former workers, who strike back after losing their jobs by disabling a company's computers.

Even so, millions of users remain vulnerable to outside predators. Computer security experts note that virtually all modern software is designed to interact with other programs—often remotely over networks, or even wirelessly. But the same features that allow such exchanges can also be used maliciously. The Love Bug and Killer Resume, for instance, both took advantage of a fracture in Microsoft's Outlook e-mail software that automatically executes small programs—called scripts—included in messages. (Microsoft has since released a software patch, downloadable from the Internet, which gives users a choice about which embedded programs Outlook will execute.) Other hacking "exploits"—a term taken from the technique of exploiting such software features—target various popular programs

Most experts say software makers could do a much better job of protecting users from hackers

security. Currie's Montreal unit has doubled to eight in two years—part of a national buildup and reorganization of the RCMP's computer-crime-fighting capabilities. After years of privation, last February's federal budget promised the force \$584 million in new money over the next three years. Deputy RCMP commissioner Curt Allen says "a considerable portion" of it will be spent on adding 20 more technical specialists, whose duties will include riding the 60 computer-crime investigators across the country. Part of the investigators' time is spent pulling evidence from computers for other investigations, the rest tracking Internet crime. By comparison, the NIPC has a staff of 375, including 200 agents devoted to fighting computer security breaches. The FBI fields 147 more computer specialists to aid other investigators (given so, Fresh says the FBI's backlog of unsolved computer crime is growing.)

But expanding the RCMP's cyber-strength may be a challenge in itself. Although the force employs some civilian staff in its units, and pays them at different rates from its own members, it can hardly match the paychecks in industry. "Everybody is out there competing for the same skill sets," Allen concedes. "We have to be competitive."

The shortage of online detectives is nationwide. In Vancouver, city police chiefs have become keenly supportive of efforts to fight digital crime over the past three years. However, Sgt. Kevin McQuiggin calls the shortfall in officers with computing skills "a critical need for policing." Says McQuiggin, "The recruiting focus of police forces has to change. You need a certain percentage of mathematicians, of computer scientists, of engineers."

And echoing the FBI's Fresh, Canadian police say some local changes may also be required. Sgt. Tim Pownall, who co-ordinates the RCMP's computer specialists from Ottawa, cites compact traffic logs as a case in point. When a hacker strikes, Pownall says, "if the logs are complete, there is a very good likelihood we can trace it to the point of communication." But often they are not complete. "There is no obligation on Internet service providers to keep those logs," Pownall says—"a sore point for investigators."

Attempts to work such an obligation into the draft Council of Europe convention ran aground. But Donald Pralgo, a justice department lawyer who has been participating in the treaty talks for Canada (which has observer status at the council along with Japan and the United States), says the convention should help investigators in other ways. "Our goal is to try to get countries to agree on a common set of abuses that would be made



Pownall: a need for Internet service providers to keep logs of online traffic

criminal," Pralgo says— noting that cops in local laws harassed Philippine investigators in tracking down the Love Bug's alleged origins. Apart from some minor adjustments, however, Pralgo says the treaty will require little change to Canadian law.

But rather than chase cyber criminals after they strike, law enforcement officials would prefer to see the attacks prevented in the first place.

Most experts say software makers could do a much better job of protecting their customers from hackers. One critic is a burly base-cat "white hat" hacker who works for Vascoover encryption and data protection firm CyPost Corp. Quoting McLuhan and Sproun, "Bolt" as he insists on being known, is definitive about the risk: "Anything that has a computer in it," he warns, "can be hacked." But the practical threat could be greatly reduced, he says, "if the industry were willing to take a little more time in the release of products, and if people felt a little more culpability." Most software warranties say nothing about—or expressly disavow—liability when the program is turned against its user, as happened with Outlook.

Microsoft Corp. has tried to deflect criticism that its tentatively interactive software is conspicuously vulnerable to hackers. "Individual consumers and businesses have gotten a lot more concerned about security," says Steve Lipner, director of Microsoft's Security Response Center. "We have independent security test teams that have the license to test products that are under development and sale. How could I break this program? We've been expanding those teams and doing more and more of it." For large corporate networks, the way forward may be backward—to the pre-desktop era of powerful main-frame-based central servers and "dumb" local terminals. Leading security consultant Btk Farms, based in Sedona, Ariz., says that on a well-managed central server, the sort of damage wrought by the Killer Internet or Love Bug viruses "just would not have happened. It would not be able to delete system files."

Over time, measures to beef up police computer squads and speed international investigations may deter some Internet vandals. "The weed level, the script kiddies, will go away," believes Currie. But to more sophisticated hackers, the burgeoning universe of wireless computing offers a wealth of new scenarios ready to be exploited. For tomorrow's crime fighters, bytes may become more important than bullets.

Web Brenda Benowitz in Montreal and Robert Seret in Toronto

The fox is in the hen house.



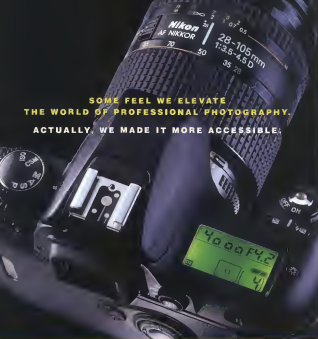
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The remote-controlled detector, Motorola T900 (right), can locate wires

A safe way to 'de-mine' roads

Peacekeeping can be dangerous work, but Canadian military engineers at Defence Research Establishment Suffield near Medicine Hat, Alta., think their remote-controlled mine detector will make the job much safer. The department of national defence has commissioned construction of four of the detectors, each measuring about 12 in. long, at a total cost of \$26 million. Due to be delivered in August, 2001, the eight-wheeled devices will be used to open supply routes, clearing roads of anti-tank mines in war-torn countries at the rate of up to three kilometers per hour, says John McFee, head of the army's threat detection group. "If you don't open the supply routes," says McFee, "you have people starving."

The detector's front-end boom is equipped with three sensors aimed detectors: an infrared camera and ground-penetrating radar. Each sensor has four mirrors in its own housing, and when it detects a suspicious object, the device's software assumes the likelihood of the "hit" being a mine. A trailer pulled by the detector swings from side to side, and positions itself over the potential mine. On it is a black box containing a 100-megapixel pellet of californium, a manmade radioactive element. A

stream of neutrons generated by the californium is pumped into the ground, in a process that detects the high concentrations of nitrogen found in explosives. If the reader confirms the presence of a mine, it discharges a fluorescent, lime-green blob to mark the spot. Although the detector and trailer weigh 5,600 kg, they do not set off mines because the weight is widely distributed and the pressure is kept sufficiently low. Two soldiers in an armored personnel carrier trail the detector by up to a kilometer, steering it and monitoring its systems via radio waves.

Dogs run free

Fastening and unfastening a dog's leash can be a slow and, for some, difficult maneuver. Certain dogs even bite the hand that reaches under their neck. Now a Bellevue, Wash., company has come up with a simple push-button system for releasing dogs called Smart-leash. The dog's collar has a silver-colored button behind the neck with a small cylindrical stopper fitted to the end. This sits in a connector attached to a long lead. When a button on the lead's handle is pressed, the stopper slips out of the connector and the dog goes free. To reattach, a handler can slip the expanded connector back over the stopper. Both fastening and unfastening can be done one-handed and without bend-

ing. Inverness Mark Miller suggests the product (www.smartleash.com) could be especially useful for dog owners with arthritis.

Portable e-mail

As the wireless wars heat up, Motorola Canada Ltd. last week unveiled its answer to the BlackBerry line of two-way pagers made by overline stock-market darling Research In Motion Ltd. of Waterloo, Ont. The main Motorola version is called the Talkabout T900 and comes in colors that include the aptly titled Razzberry Ice. Featuring a mini-keyboard and a four-line display, the device can send and receive e-mail, get stock quotes and weather reports, and more common for 250 people. It will be priced at less than \$300, Motorola says. The company also introduced the more powerful T1000P P955 communicator, which features an eight-line backlit screen, color memory, and infrared data transfer. It will cost under \$600.



Cool Sites

Who rules?

Can't recall who was king of Cambodia in 1950? A site simply called Rules contains a prodigious listing of the top officials of virtually every country, dating back to the early-19th century. There are kings, emperors, presidents and prime ministers, complete with their exact dates in office as well as their biographies. Canada's entry includes governors, prime ministers and government generals, as well as all provincial premiers and lieutenant-governors. The site is at www.govcan.ca/monarchs/1058/index.html. And in Cambodia, the king was Ang Duong.

Danilo Howells and
Bertin Woodhead

Celebrating the Life of a Legend

Montrealers gave Maurice Richard, the self-professed simple man, a hero's send-off

By Brenda Branson

In Montreal's chilly St. Mary's Centre, Richard Sarraute cast a long, wistful glance at his childhood hero before filing past the open coffin of hockey legend Maurice Richard. "Nobody ever played like the Rocket," the 63-year-old, clothing manufacturer gazed last week. "I never saw anyone shoot the puck with greater accuracy." Outside the arena, Claude Lavallée, 71, arrived on inline roller skates. The retired plumber, who had come by for surgery, said he felt he had to do something to honour his hero, so he skated all the way to the Molson Centre from his home in the city's east end with a heart monitor strapped to his wrist. "He had," Lavallée said, "a lot of determination."

And a nation of fans. Richard's death on May 27 due to abdominal cancer elicited a massive outpouring of affection across the country. But the loss was especially great in Montreal, Richard's heroic city, where an estimated 115,000 people joined Lavallée and Sarraute to pay their respects in his lay in state. Another 1,700 mourners packed Notre Dame Basilica for the funeral itself, and thousands of others lined Montreal streets for the funeral procession and to watch the solemn rite on a large video screen outside the church. The crowd began applauding as the hearse pulled up. The organ played strongly when the bells rang nine times for No. 9 and an end of Richard's finest teammates, including Jean Beliveau, Dickie Moore and Elmer Lach, receded his coffin into the basilica. Even now



irrevocably, the reverent applause resonated inside the church when the service ended. "There's only one man that this could be done for, and it's him," said Moore. "He was the Babe Ruth of hockey." Richard always insisted he was just a simple hockey player, but so many he was a cultural icon. As a result, the pews were filled not only with hockey's elite—including his old rival Gordie Howe—but also with Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, Quebec Premier Lucien Bouchard and other political and cultural luminaries. But the most prolific comment came from Richard's ordinary fans who lined St-Catherine Street and chanted "Maurice! Maurice!" as the hearse wound its way to the church. "He always said what he felt and people identified with him for that reason," said former



The final outburst at the basilica: In his prime with fire in his eyes (above left), his own tears

Canadian Guy Lafleur. "You couldn't buy the Rocket—he was his own man."

Shy and taciturn, Richard was often caught off guard by fans' adulation. At the Forum's closing in 1936 he was overwhelmed by a spontaneous ovation that was the loudest and longest given to any of the former Canadiens there. "He didn't like the limelight," explained Moore. He didn't like being drawn into political fights either, but they seemed inescapable. In fact, some observers regard the 1955 riot in



At the 1955 scuffling of the Rocket Richard Trophy, caught off guard by fans' adulation

Montreal that erupted after Richard was suspended by then-NHL president Clarence Campbell is an early example of Quebecers fighting against Anglo domination. Richard flatly denied suggestions that his battles with Campbell had anything to do with discrimination. "I had as many English fans as French in Montreal," he said. "I was as well treated by the English as the French." And to avoid politicizing the funeral, the Richard family rejected a suggestion that his coffin be draped in the fleur-de-lis.

Still, his power was undeniable. "It's the pride that he brought to the Quebec people," suggested Gilles Smith, 49, who paid his respects at the Molson Centre. "As kids, we played outside and we were all Maurice Richards. We all had No. 9 and we saw ourselves scoring goals in the NHL." On the steps of the basilica, Armand Bouchard, a 65-year-old hardware salesman, offered a similar sentiment. "What he wanted to prove to us," said Bouchard, "was that French-Canadians could do something more."

So pervasive was his impact that even Montreal's baseball man, the Expos, announced that three players would wear No. 9 on their uniforms for the rest of the season in Richard's honour. Hockey fans who never saw him play could get some understanding

from a famous photo of him bearing down on goal, eyes wide and fiery, the picture of determination. "I think a lot of players today should look at that photo before they jump on the ice," said former Canadiens defenseman Serge Savard, who attended the funeral. The condolence books at the Molson Centre, however, were filled with recollections from those who had seen the Rocket. One man wrote about the first of the Molson five straight Stanley Cup victories that ended in 1960, the year Richard retired. "Thank you for the year 1956," the inscription said simply. "God be with you." The legend who asked to be remembered as a hockey player got what he wanted. ■

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Just like a virgin?

Surgeons restore hymens for cultural reasons and tighten vagina walls for better sex

By Susan Oh

The Toronto sales clerk, who is seen on an emergency, explains in hushed tones how in her Middle Eastern Muslim culture, a woman's future can hang, literally, by a membrane. Specifically, the hymen, the translucent tissue partially covering the vaginal opening in most females until it is ruptured, usually by sexual activity. In some societies, the hymen must be intact as an unmarried woman as proof of virginity. Without it, the 18-year-old clerk says, women are shunned as whores—in some cases even considered by male relatives to ruin their family honour.

That is why the young woman, who came to Canada four years ago and will enter an arranged marriage in September, searched desperately for eight months before finding a plastic surgeon who would restore her hymen—for \$2,000. She learned from her family doctor nearly a year ago that her hymen had been damaged in an intimate encounter with a boyfriend she'd been seeing without her family's knowledge for two years. "My first thought was that I'd have to kill myself to avoid hardship and shame for myself and my family," she says. That was before she found her saviour in Toronto plastic surgeon Robert Struble. "Now," says the brunette, "I can feel safe."

Struble, also known for his technique to lengthen penises, reconstructs hymens two ways. He either stitches the membrane back in place if it is not too



Struble is his surgery requests from around the world to help women in distress

damaged, or he stitches a flap of skin from the vaginal wall across the opening. The process takes one to two hours, and patients can return to work the next day. But the procedure is just one of the many elective surgeries increasingly available to women willing to pay thousands of dollars for alterations to their sexual organs. Among the others are labia reduction and, primarily for women who have lost some tone after giving birth, so-called vaginal rejuvenation, or tightening.

"I'm getting calls from around the world asking about hymen reconstruction," says Struble. He receives about 20 inquiries a year, and has performed a dozen over the past two years. Most requests come from women from Middle Eastern cultures. But not all Struble operated on a Russian musician in her early 40s, who wanted her hymen restored as a symbolic gesture before her second marriage. She and the groom had been lovers before she defected from Russia in the late 1970s. After marrying their partners and divorcing, they reunited in Canada a decade later.

Overall numbers of operations are hard to come by because, says Struble, some doctors won't admit they perform hymen reconstructions. "There's a hypocrisy in the profession," says Struble, who has no qualms about performing the surgery. "Each woman has

to be looked at within the context of her cultural demands. If a doctor will take a thing off her nose, why feel uncomfortable about restoring a membrane in her vaginal?"

In mainstream Western culture, designer labia and resculpted vaginas are now part of the growing list of attainable ideals featured in women's magazines. Surgeons and certified patients use laser vaginal rejuvenation as a way to improve a woman's sexual gratification. Practitioners use absorbable sutures to tighten vaginas stretched through aging, childbirth or even smoking, which destroys connective tissue. The surgeons then remove excess tissue with a laser.

Sensursha Gonzalez, 25, a Vancouver mother of three, underwent the procedure after delivering twins from her last pregnancy. She no longer had a pleasurable orgasm during intercourse with her husband of seven years. Curses. "I lost my confidence to feel and give pleasure," she says. After the \$4,500 operation and three months of recuperation, she is "fantastic" again, she says. The doctor who performed the operation, Vancouver-area gynecologist Roy Jackson, says some of his patients have had four or five other gynecologists reject their requests for vaginal reconstruction or labia and clitoral reductions. "These women come to me saying they feel less feminine and

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Health

attractive," he says. "Why shouldn't women have a choice?"

Other specialists, however, question whether medications such as Viagra or surgery are the answer to sexual problems. "There are so many ways people could please each other and show affection and love without having a hard penis and tight vagina," says Dr. Guile Bourgeois-Law, a Winnipeg gynecologist who specializes in women's sexual counseling. She questions whether surgically tightening the vagina could significantly increase a woman's pleasure. The greater friction may give more sensation, she says, but not in cases where nerves have been damaged by the stretching associated with child birth.

Often, says Bourgeois-Law, a woman's sexual pleasure is inhibited by factors that aren't physical. "Women coming to me with sexual problems are juggling family and career and they're exhausted," she says. "And they wonder why they're not interested in sex." Bourgeois-Law turned down the only woman who has asked her for vaginal reduction, because the patient's concern was not for her own well-being but for her ability to give her husband pleasure. Gonzoes, too, had her husband in mind when she had the operation. "I noticed afterwards that he wasn't happy with the size," she says. "I like to be with my partner with the confidence that he feels as much pleasure as I do, and not give him any reason to men around outside the marriage."

Is surgery an appropriate response? "If women are deriving pleasure from it, then OK," says Lesley Biggs, head of the department of women's and gender studies at the University of Saskatchewan. But it raises other questions, she says, adding, "You also have to look at how notions of pleasure are socially constructed." The factors influencing women to seek surgery may seem questionable to some, but for the young slender and Gonzoes, at least, the operation made perfect sense. ■

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Ann Dowsett Johnston

Investing in brainpower

Dick Tomlinson has devoted more than 50 years to McMaster University. But two weeks ago, the 76-year-old retired chemistry professor handed \$66 million in cash and stock to McGill, the university where he earned his PhD in 1958. Having set the record for the largest philanthropic gift in Canadian history, he headed home by train to Marquette and his life—"the place where I'm happiest." Really? Then why McGill? "I've made many donations to McMaster, and education," the notoriously frugal professor remarks, "isn't in a roundabout way." No doubt. Those include a significant contribution to the McMaster Museum of Art, and another to the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research, which funded a physics professor at the university. And last spring, he thrilled Bathurst, bestowing \$4 million on the university where he received his undergraduate degree in 1943.

But Tomlinson saved the lion's share of his fortune for McGill. A founding director of Cetus, the world's leading maker of hearing aid microchips and a major supplier of chips for digital signal processing, TV equipment, Tomlinson pledged his private company to his alma mater a decade ago. Over the years, both former principal David Johnston and his successor, Bernard Shapiro, have worked with Tomlinson to determine the focus of his extraordinary gift. One thing was clear: Tomlinson was not interested in books and mortar. "I have a vision of a great university," says Tomlinson, "centered on great faculty and great students. But politicians are interested in getting votes, and all money and pags are interested in getting jobs into universities. Universities in Canada have prostituted themselves by taking extra bodies. But you can't mix the needs with the intelligencia and treat them the same way." He pauses. "Maybe I could have chosen better words."

No question. But we get the point: Tomlinson wants to invest in gifted individuals who can bear significant fruit for the country. Here is what his donation begins to make possible: the endowment of six chairs at \$2 million apiece, the creation of 42 endowed fellowships, a fund to encourage young surgeons in their research, a \$4-million boost to scholarships, a major fund for library services plus an innovative teaching fund to develop new techniques in the sciences.

The Tomlinson gift sends a powerful signal: if governments can't fund the quality agenda on their own, private patrons will. Pasternak-like coming magnate Stewart Blusson, who gave \$50 million to UBC, or Col. Sam McLaughlin

Before his death in 1972, the pioneering aviator launched a major charitable foundation to promote, among other things, medical research and education. But he had one stipulation: the money had to be disbursed no later than next year. "Lack wind it up," he said. "Who will remember Sam McLaughlin in 2001?"

As it turns out, more people than he could have possibly imagined. This week, the University of Toronto announced the establishment of the R. Samuel McLaughlin Centre, a \$150-million initiative aimed at advancing new strategies for the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of disease. The centre, which will integrate cutting-edge research and innovative training, should help vault Canada to the forefront of biomedical and genetic research. What's remarkable is the scope and vision of the project. Jump-started by a \$50-million donation from the McLaughlin Foundation, the centre has the commitment of a further \$50 million from the university and four of its teaching hospitals. That investment, in turn, has leveraged a further \$50 million from a government partner, the provincial Ontario Innovation Trust. Together, this represents the largest combined commitment to medical research and education in Canadian history.

Call it an exercise in compound intelligence—and one that took more than three years to shape. Knowing that the foundation was looking for a home for its investment, U of T president Bob Prichard retained Donald Kennedy, former president of Stanford University, as a consultant. His job: to identify the best international models for biomedical research and training. Kennedy concluded that a centre of true distinction demanded a minimum commitment of \$100 million.

That homework has more than paid off. The \$50-million McLaughlin gift, having attracted a further \$100 million, will have a transformative impact on the university and, ultimately, on public health. Most critically, the university can be confident that it will attract and retain world-class researchers. Like the Tomlinson gift, the McLaughlin donation represents a major investment in brainpower.

Tomlinson, who is childless, has promised he will continue to give, saying simply, "I don't have a yen for a 747." In the past week, his phone has rung off the hook. One caller asked if he was interested in becoming a Christian. His reply? "I told them I already was a Christian." A Christian who has just raised the bar for philanthropic giving.



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People

Spain's beauty

Penélope Cruz arrived on the Riviera

Headline Crazier late—an hour late for an afternoon of interviews in effusive Canada on the exclusive *Planet du Cap* near Cannes. And if making the red-carpet white taking a long lunch on the French Riviera is a touch provocative, then Cruz has truly arrived. At 26, Spanish beauty has entered Hollywood in full as the Catalan comes. Cruz, the affable *Alfie*, is now in Greece, shooting close-ups with Nicolas Cage in the wartime romance *Captain Correlli*. Meanwhile, in *Bliss*, she co-stars with **Johnny Depp** as the drag-napped wife of a cocaine dealer. **Playing a thief** in *Women on Top*, the cool-as-ice prepster with Beethoven soupier *Madeleine*. And she settles up with **Matt Damon** in *All the Pretty Horses*.

Despite reports that Damon's interest in Cruz split up his relationship with girlfriend **Wesley Ryder**, Cruz insists they were "just friends." And she has learned to live with invasions of privacy. On the set in Greece, she says, "I'm surrounded by a strange combination, a *Strait* combination, of goat and musician." But Cruz still does not consider herself a



Cruc: *Hollywood's success is just as much a European art* ("I never like to use that word") and Hollywood success will not stop her from accepting more offbeat roles in movies by *Manoel de Oliveira*—"even if I have to go to a psychiatrist or a witch to find out who he always makes me cry more than kills me."

The Cat comes back

As Cat Stevens, his spare years centering so active with his younger sister ego, Cat Stevens, his name in the 1970s when he was known for such hits as *Flasher* and *Son and Moonchild*. But in 1977, Stevens changed his name, renounced his past life and adopted the Islamic faith. The musician, Islam, 51, told *Madweek* that "a growing awareness there was more to life than what we've been told." But recently Islam, who has five

*Ar Cat Stevens,
1970s (single)
Atlantic: monomerc*

children as run four Islamic schools in England, has made a partial return to music, helping to produce the new release of *The Very Best of Carpenters: Some Mutuals*, albeit acknowledging, candidly, the music business "frivolous." But, he adds, "These people don't understand Western life, where songs sometimes represent a movement towards things better."



On the road with a giant toaster

In a garlic-induced hallucination, **Bob Blumer**, aka *The Survival Gourmet*, dreamed up the "toaster-mixer"—an Aeromix trailer customized with an industrial kitchen and topped with two giant slices of toast. The always-thoughtful Ambassadors as guest rolling toasters: says Blumer, 38, "To me, the toaster-mixer is like a giant couplet." Now, Montreal-born Blumer is on the road with his rolling appliances for a three-month, 34-city tour of North America. In the traveling \$50,000 kitchen, he'll prepare recipes from his cookbook, *Dry the Golden Rush*, on them up to people at, among places, truck stops and gas stations.

Blumer is familiar with cooking on the road. In testing recipes for his latest book, he cooked trout on a car engine during a drive from Los Angeles to Santa Barbara, Calif. He also poached salmon



Director, Texas rock manager de internal projects

In a dishwasher Blumer has no formal training in the kitchen and fell into the career after years of managing Toronto rock musician **Jane Siberry**. As a result, the recipes in Blumer's popular series of *Surreal Gourmet* books focus on artistic delivery—what he calls a *Gali-esque* approach to presentation. “The ‘first taste,’ says Blumer, “is with the eyes.”

A Stage Marigold in Full Bloom

The much-admired Goldie Semple is now a star attraction at the Shaw Festival



By John Beaumont in Niagara-on-the-Lake

When the big wind struck on the evening of May 12 this year, Goldie Semple was onstage at the Shaw Festival, playing the role of Lavinia in Nod Coward's *Easy Virtue*. Outside raged one of the most devastating storms ever to hit the 200-year-old town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, a two-hour drive south of Toronto. Century-old trees were uprooted while power lines were knocked down and branches and shingles sent flying. Meanwhile, the wind was sucking air from the theatre, causing it to decompress. Objects were banging and clanging backstage, while on the stage itself, the curtain began to billow upwards. "It was just like *Pelley's III*," Semple recalls. "Every-

thing in the world was out of place. I kept thinking, 'Who says the show has to go on?'"

Nobody stopped the show, however, and Semple played out Lavinia's later scenes to the end. A few weeks later, the actress sits in a restaurant near Lake Ontario, recalling the storms and calm of a career that has made her one of the most admired stage actresses in Canada. At 47, Goldie Semple is at the top of her game. A star attraction of the Shaw Festival's new season, she is also playing the lead role of Daisy in Thornton Wilder's 1954 comedy *The Matchmaker* (May 12 to Nov. 11). As well, Semple has made her mark at the Stratford Festival and virtually every

other major theatre across the country.

Remarkably, in a profession where the competition to put on air is virtually irresistible, Semple seems one of the most natural of people, both on and off the stage. Tall (five feet, eight inches), with green eyes, she picks her way through a career salad and reflects on a difficult adolescence in her native Vancouver. Marigold Semple, she claims, was overweight, too tall and painfully shy. After flunking out of a typing course, she took up drama.

"That's where all the music tended to coalesce—the crazy, interesting, shy people. I think you find any number of shy people in the theatre because you are given a chance to become someone

else. You get to say wonderful, witty, profound things."

Semple also discovered that the theatre was a place where she could turn emotion that had found no outlet in her daily life. "That's one of the great pleasures in acting," she says. "One of the releases. Anger can be a relief. Grief can be a huge relief. Loving and feeling loved can be extremely attractive. I think that's why you get all sorts of romantic difficulties among actors."

When another performer is directing all this lovely love talk at you, your body and brain are going, "Gimme, gimme!" Her eyes rolling back as if she were swooning from sheer pleasure, Semple adds, "I can be very difficult to put up a screen and say, 'It stops here.'"

That may sound like a confession, but in fact Semple has been happily married for 24 years to actor Lorin Kennedy. They met at the University of British Columbia in the early 1970s when Kennedy picked up a hit Semple had dropped ("I didn't drop it on purpose at all," she says, beating a little at the suggestion). Marriages between actors are notoriously unstable, particularly at times when one is getting a lot more work and attention than the other. "We had not to think that your talent is somehow diminished when someone won't have you," Semple says. "It's really just fate, but it's hard not to take it personally. So whether it's Lorin or I who's working or not working, there's always a bit of an eggshell feeling in the house."

Then there are the long separations when Semple or Kennedy are working for months at a time in different cities. "It can all be very discouraging—though just now Kennedy is also working at Shaw, where he has a major role in George Bernard Shaw's *The Doctor's Dilemma*.

Semple's current stint at the festival marks a return to a theatre that nurtured her career in the early 1980s. "The plays of Shaw are an amazing training ground for actors," she says. "In fact, I think Shaw is far more difficult to perform than Shakespeare. What you need in your bag of tricks to get a Shawian argument across is im-

mease. You need to have a really agile brain, word technique and an English accent. And you have to learn how to make an audience pay attention to these long, circuitous, cerebral arguments."

Having honed her craft on Shaw, Semple joined the Stratford Festival in 1986, where, under the guidance of the artistic director David Williams, she took the lead role of Hermione in Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale*. It was one of the great productions in the festival's history, and Semple's deeply moving portrait of the queen who is falsely

accused of infidelity was one of the major reasons for its success. Semple fell in love with Shakespeare, and two years later enjoyed another triumph as Kate in a captivating version of *The Taming of the Shrew* directed by Richard Manette. Semple's delivery of Kate's final speech, in which she promises to honour and obey her husband, was made with such subtle irony and consummate grace that it reverberates in memory still.

Semple might have continued at Stratford indefinitely, but in 1993 she and her husband (who had also been working there) left the festival in circumstances that are still controversial. Why had Manette, by now an artistic director, let her slip away? Had there been a falling out? Semple has always tended to gloss over the incident, saying the parting was entirely amicable. But today, prodded at the loss of her salad, she admits there were complications. She says that Manette offered her the major role of Gertrude in *Hamlet*, but that she didn't want it ("I felt I was too young, though the money is now I'd love to do it"). And while the offer was to do other roles, Manette announced they were not available. "I don't think he wanted me there

enough," she says. "It felt Richard had fallen out of love with me as an actress."

So Semple and Kennedy, who was also disappointed with the roles he had been offered, left the festival. Yet they have kept their house in Stratford, a town they still consider home. They also started a small theatre company called Foolscap—a group of actor friends who did public readings from the classics. In fact, it was a phenomenally productive time for Semple. At 42, after 10 years of trying, she gave birth to a daughter, Madeline. And



David Schermeron (left), Semple as *Easy Virtue*'s Lavinia, looking back for her daughter by day and playing a rebel divorcee by night

she went back to work at Shaw.

These days, the actress, her husband and Madeline, now 5, live in a mood house in Niagara-on-the-Lake. By day, Semple is a normal inquisitive mother, making lunches, packing gym uniforms and worrying about the pesticides sprayed on the town's lawn. By night, she's Lavinia, the rich, sophisticated divorcee at the heart of *Easy Virtue*. "Which role does she prefer?" "I love being at work. I love it," Semple says without hesitation. "It's not that I love being away from my child. But when I'm on the stage—that's just who I am." ■



Kevin Thompson and Blair Williams in The Doctor's Dilemma, premiered

Theatre

Flights of fancy

With a Broadway musical, Wildean wit and Shawian rhetoric, the Shaw Festival launches another fine season

It's been a rougher than usual start at the Shaw Festival this year. Early in May, near-hurricane-force winds smacked Niagara-on-the-Lake, playing havoc with a preview performance. Then, heavy rains drenched the festival's official opening, on May 24. More seriously, ticket sales are lagging behind last year's second pace, though they are still 10,000 higher than 1998. Anomalous, meanwhile, the festival seems in solid shape. Of the five shows that recently premiered, four are well worth seeing.

She Loves Me is one of the most engaging musical productions ever mounted at Shaw (to Dec. 10). Directed by Roger Hodgson, this 1963 classic from the American creators of *Fiddler on the Roof*, Jerry Block and Sheldon Harnick, is set in the Budapest of the 1930s and follows the same plot device as the recent film *Notre Garçon*. A young couple who work in a perfume store can't stand each other, but at the same time they're exchanging adoring letters as members of a lonely hearts correspondence club. It

may sound like a flimsy premise, but the cast is terrific. Glynn Ransley and Ben Carlson imbue the lovers with such a wistful, awkward charm that *She Loves Me* crosses the border from mere entertainment to sheer delight.

Time and the Conways, a 1957 drama by the British writer J. B. Priestley (to Oct. 28), is considerably less successful. The play offers a glimpse of a large upper-middle-class family, the Conways, as they rebound optimistically from the First World War, and then catches up to them nine years later, in 1936, when all their dreams have turned to dust. Director Neil Menno and his actors achieve some fine moments, but in the end the production can't escape either the play's weak first act or the banality of Priestley's central idea about the illusory nature of time. This chamber should have been left on the library shelf.

Erry Verray, Noel Coward's 1925 comedy (to July 22), proved so popular when the festival mounted it last year that director Christopher Newton

has brought it back with only minor changes. The play burrows into one of Coward's favorite themes: what happens when different social worlds collide? A young man from a well-to-do and very conventional family brings home a highly cultured bride a good 10 years his senior. As the new wife, Lavinia, Goldie Semple offers an exquisitely sympathetic portrait of a woman led by love to make a disastrous life choice.

The Doctor's Dilemma, George Bernard Shaw's 1906 tragic-comedy (to Oct. 29), takes a jaundiced view of the medical profession. Several doctors, outrageous egotists all, are faced with a quandary: There is only enough of a new vaccine to help one patient. Should they use it save an unusual but gifted artist or a decrepit old general practitioner? Dorothea Newton has a genius for grounding Shaw's theoretical flights in an intelligent narrative, and here he adds a further twist: a masked pantomime staged between acts, based on the Mexican dance of death. Led by fine comic performances from Jim Meach, Lorne Kennedy and Bernard Behrens, this deeply funny, thought-provoking show offers a welcome inoculation of skepticism against the claims of science.

A Woman of No Importance, Oscar Wilde's 1893 melodrama (to Sept. 24), focuses on the extraordinary Mary Hazar as Mrs. Arbuthnot, a woman abandoned in her youth by her onetime lover, Lord Illegworth (Jim Meach). Directed by Susan Forley, this production never entirely overcomes a split between its witty, funny bits and its passages of deep feeling. Yet there are richer splendors, including festival veteran Jennifer Duggan's portrait of the married old aristocrat Lady Caroline Fitzgibbon. Dressed entirely in black, the grand dame presides over a garden party with the does and rakes of a Queen Victoria, perpetually unamused but irresistibly amusing.

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Films

From scribbler to star

New Waterford Girl could take journalism student and novice actress Liane Balaban to The Big Time

By Brian D. Johnson

Liase Balaban knew that her life had changed when Courteney Love came up to her at the Sundance Film Festival and introduced herself as a fan. The occasion was last January's *American premiere of New Waterford Girl*, a charming Cape Breton comedy in which Balaban, a 19-year-old actress from Toronto, makes a stunning debut. It was hard not to notice Love in the audience at Sundance. "She was laughing all the way through, and got into a fight with an audience member who was being too loud," recalls Balaban, who ended up at a private party hosted by the infamous rock/movie star later that night. "It was such a surreal experience, meeting Courteney Love and having her stroke my arm while she spoke to me."

Before she landed the lead in *New Waterford Girl*, Balaban's only experience on camera was playing a corpse in a student film. Now, she has a Hollywood agent and is auditioning for starring roles alongside big-name actors in major studio productions. But in the meantime, while she waits for *The Big Time*, Balaban is happy studying journalism at Ryerson Polytechnic University. "I try to tell you a degree if I can't be a movie star," she shrugs. "Julia Roberts didn't work for three years after *My Best Friend*, or so they tell me."

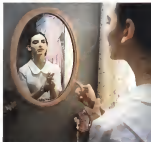
Balaban may not be the next Julia Roberts—she seems more complicated than that—but in *New Waterford Girl*, she has a natural charisma that makes it impossible to take your eyes off her. The movie's 53-year-old director, Allan Moyle—who was born in Shatinigan, Que., and made the 1990 cult hit *Pump up the Volume* with Christian Slater—is emphatic: "I can say, without blinking, that she will be a big star if she wants it."

But she's very ambitious. Half of her wants to go and be a giant success, and the other half wants to stay and be a journalist. She has some reasons. And the camera loves reasons.

In Moyle's film, Balaban plays 15-year-old Mooney Parris, a '70s misfit longing to escape the Cape Breton coal-mining town of New Waterford. Her teacher, Cecil (Andrew McCarthy), has arranged a scholarship for her to attend an arts school in Manhattan. But Mooney's furtive passion, comically played by Mary Walsh (*The Hot Chick* 22 Minutes) and Nicholas Campbell (*The Vines*), will not hear of it. Mooney then hooks up with a 16-year-old spiffie from the Bronx named Lou (Tom Spence-Niam) who has just moved in next door with her mother (Cathy Moriarty), a Latin dance instructor. Lou, who has a talent for dropping guys with a punch ("if they are galeys, they fall"), soon becomes the scourge of New Waterford. And together, the girls plot Mooney's escape.

With her first feature script, Nova Scotia screenwriter Ticia Fair, 38, has created an offbeat yet remarkably uncontrived portrait of small-town life. And Moyle, shooting on location in Cape Breton, conveys a distinctive sense of place—under gas-motel skies, many of the exterior look like tourism. Balaban, meanwhile, offers a beguiling mix of naive introspection and precocious wit. Off-screen, the actress comes across

as a warmer personality—outgoing enough to host her own radio show on the Internet (2bbsradio.com). Born in Toronto, she is the daughter of a Catholic mother, a radical secretary, and a Jewish father from Uzbekistan, who works in real estate. Balaban had never considered the audition for *New Waterford Girl*. "The waiting room was full of intense blond girls," she recalls. "One of them was scolding her lines to the wall. I thought, 'Oh, my God, what am I doing here!'"



Balaban in the movie, posing from Courteney Love

But after seven more auditions, Balaban got the part. On the set, she relied on intuition, and had no reason to be nervous by such seasoned actors as Walsh and Campbell. "No one my age watches Canadian TV," she explains. Besides, Balaban had her own connection to the story. Her mother's first husband was a coal miner from New Waterford, where they spent their honeymoon in 1961—just another serendipitous element in making a rare piece of Canadian movie magic. ☐



Allan Fotheringham

That was the town that was

The sad death of journalist Sandra Gwyn, after a brave five-year fight against cancer, attended to a classy funeral almost everyone in Ottawa who could type. *The Globe and Mail's* man in Washington flew in Brian Mulroney's speechwriter in Montreal flew in. Old friends from the Rock were in, sobbing attendance.

The death of Gwyn brings to the fore another interesting fact: Ottawa, the town that fun fogies, became even more dull when a gang of women—Gwyn included—left the precinct. It's never been, socially, an interesting place.

As any male dolt knows, the tone of any party, any social dinner, is set by the demagogue of the house. House nervous and insecure, bad vibes all around. House serene and confident a smashing time it had by all.

Ottawa, during the Trudeau solid days, was run by a half-dozen wives of powerful and influential male-types: Beverly Boudart, then-wife of Liberal cabinet minister John Robarts—thought of as a future prime minister—was one. Poppy Jobartson, wife of a top-drawer deputy minister, was another.

There was CBC broadcaster Elizabeth Gray, wife of the *Globe's* John Gray, Gacema Lindars was almost five feet tall and her husband, Tom, the American ambassador, was almost seven feet tall. The then-Adrian Lang was married to another young heavy in the Trudeau cabinet, Otto. Sandra Gorkob, wife of the famous deputy minister of all, Allan. And Sandra, wife of Toronto Star pundit Richard.

The point is that a political capital is always obsessed—Washington is an absolute cesspool of it—with gossip. What's going up in the polls? What's going down in the PM's mind? Who's sleeping with whom?

The way to get all this dirt is to hang out at the best dinner tables in town, meaning those run by Beverly, Poppy, Elizabeth, Gacema and the rest. And not a single one of all the above any longer linger in Ottawa—where never a mistress is now seen and the sun doesn't shine anymore.

As further proof of how the females ruled Ennui-by-the-Radisson (has anyone raved over Mrs. Manning's table setting?), there was an outrageous imitation called Briars Canada. Pamela Wallin is supposed to be the mistress of the table.

It was a weekly gathering, over lunch at the National Arts Centre, of the more deadly wives in town. It was the Great

White North equivalent, one supposes, of the Algonquin Round Table, of Dorothy Parker fame.

The usual suspects were Sandra Gwyn, Sandra Gorkob, Wallin, Elizabeth Gray, CBC producer Nicole Bélanger, the celebrated troubadour Steve Cameron and the feisty feminist Doria Anderson, then running the National Action Committee on the Status of Women. By the third martini, there wasn't a single man in town whose reputation was not shredded beyond recall. There was blood all over the floor.

One of the bizarrest contributions to the savagery was the great and late Marjorie Nichals, who, before she smoked and drank her way to death, was the housewife with the moxie, in a madhouse house she shared on a placid basis with Hugh Winter, now the *Globe's* Ottawa columnist.

Everyone in town, including cabinet ministers, used to pass out on her couch after they had exhausted the Ping-Pong table. She would have Margaret Trudeau in on some of the more raucous evenings. I once asked her if she had ever visited the PM.

"Certainly not," she replied in that assertive Red Deer Marjorie style. "Never. He kills a parry. He walks in, and everybody freezes. Never."

Such was Ottawa, a scribbler recalls at the Gwyn funeral as the mourners sat in the reception/wake at the nearby Massey College courtyard where a trio, Daughters of the Rock, sang *Globes to Newfoundland*—Sandra's

beloved birthland, where Richard is going to scribble her ashes as promised in his throat-choking eulogy.

Sandra and Richard were one of the children "power couples" of Canadian journalism, he an interesting bloke who was paranoic Sandhurst, the first military college. Eventually, young Richard allowed so his father that he didn't fancy himself a soldier and Papa, to his credit, never once complained and had to pay some expenses, as was the rule, to get him out of it.

Fleeing the Anglo-French invasion of the Saint Canal in 1956, he ended up a door-to-door salesman in Canada and somehow rose Sandra, lucky him. In one of the more generous dedications in literary history, he perfumed his brilliant Trudeau analysis—*The Northern Agenda*—with the confession that every sentence in the book had gone through his wife's eyespinner before publishing.

Now, shut a marriage.



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